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DU PRÉ:
A SISTER
BETRAYED

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RESULTS

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GENIUS

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on the art
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Major was ready to quit for Clarke

By PHILIP WEBSTER
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN MAJOR almost quit as Prime Minister in the week after Britain left the European exchange-rate mechanism in 1992. He wrote a resignation statement and was even thinking of Kenneth Clarke as his preferred successor, but he was talked out of going after two hours of anguished soul-searching with his private secretary, Stephen Wall.

Three years later when he was again on the rack over Europe, Mr Major allegedly tried to do a secret deal with Sir James Goldsmith. He is said to have promised the Referendum Party leader that he would try to persuade the Cabinet of the need for a plebiscite on Britain's relations

with Europe if Sir James held fire in his own campaign — which was eventually to cost the Tories many Westminster seats.

The disclosures and allegations come from two insiders whose accounts appear in *The Times* as Mr Major prepares to address the Tory conference today.

According to Mr Major's official biographer Anthony Seldon, stories that Mr Major lost his nerve or wobbled on September 16, 1992 — Black Wednesday — were without foundation. In fact, his book tells how Mr Major overruled his Chancellor, Norman Lamont, on crucial decisions that day, including the raising of interest rates to 15 per cent in a vain attempt to keep Britain in the ERM.

But his mood darkened in the following days, Seldon writes. "He repeatedly

pondered the idea of his resignation, floating it with several colleagues on the evening of Tuesday 22 September. Despite finding no support, he would not leave the subject alone, and came close to putting it into practice on the Wednesday. He went as far as to write out the script for a resignation broadcast, and tip off

Kenneth Clarke that he should prepare himself for a leadership election."

That evening, he tried to show the text to Mr Wall who refused to read it; instead they talked for two hours. "Major subsequently regarded this conversation as crucial to his decision to carry on." And when Mr Lamont offered his resignation

to Mr Major, he was told that neither would be stepping down.

Mr Seldon's book provides the most authentic evidence to date of the extent of Mr Major's demoralisation over the ERM debacle. He was sent the manuscript as crucial to his decision to carry on. And when Mr Lamont offered his resignation

to Mr Major, he was told that neither would be stepping down.

Mr Seldon highlights the damage the fiasco did to Mr Major's self-confidence. "Major had acted on what he regarded as the best advice in the country, and had taken what he thought were the brave and right decisions. Now he found himself widely reviled. He had never felt so lonely or exposed in his working life."

The biography also charts the political damage caused by the fiasco. Tory Eurosceptics were unrestrained in their

attacks on the leadership and middle-ranking ministers such as John Redwood became more openly critical. "In Cabinet Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and, increasingly, Michael Portillo felt more confident to speak out. The balance of power began to tilt away from Major."

The allegations about secret discussions between Mr Major and Sir James Goldsmith are made by Lord McAlpine of West Green in a fresh chapter for his book *Once a Jolly Bagman*. The central charge that Mr Major was prepared to offer Sir James a referendum on Britain's relations with Europe is understood to be strongly.

(Continued on page 2, col 6)

Conference preview, pages 8, 9
Leading article, page 21

Play the game, public schools tell their boys

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A CODE of conduct to stamp out indiscipline and gamesmanship imported from professional sport in matches between schools was unveiled last night by the heads of leading independent schools.

Following a series of incidents on and off the pitch at school matches, the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference is to urge its members to take a stronger hand in disciplining teams. Parents will also be warned about bad language and aggression when cheering from the touchline.

The agreement, which will be put to schools in the next few months, will focus particularly on verbal abuse, intimidation, bad language and dissent on the playing fields which were the cradle of modern sport and gave the world soccer and rugby.

Chris Hirst, the headmaster of Sedbergh School, who drafted the code, said: "The world of professional sport has raced ahead and its attitudes have changed games. All schools have a responsibility to channel competitive instincts into fair play."

Mr Hirst said pupils were influenced by television and by the behaviour they encountered in clubs when playing out of school. Headmasters had to exercise as much control over standards of behaviour in sport as they did in other areas of school life.

Parents will also feel the effects of the code, which was agreed by the committee in draft form at the HMC's conference in Brighton. Mr Hirst said touchline aggres-

sion and bad language were becoming more common, even in preparatory schools. One school had filmed a parent and shown him the video to bring home its concerns.

The draft code says schools of all types bear a responsibility to set the highest standards of conduct on the field.

The rapport between head teacher and master in charge of any sport is crucial to the maintenance of high standards, the code says. "The master in charge must always know that he has his head's support in stressing that inter-school matches should be played in the best possible spirit where victory is sought at all times but where defeat is not the end of the world."

The fear of losing (quite different from the concept of avoiding defeat in hard-fought and fair contest) is a negative concept which can have a direct effect upon conduct in the field."

Mr Hirst said that schools from other countries, which have been criticised particularly for poor behaviour on the cricket field, cannot take all of the blame. "I suspect this so-called 'professional' approach has long been evident in adult cricket of all descriptions. It is good to see action being taken to change this state of affairs at the highest level, and I hope that all schools may play their part to ensure that this same spirit of the game is evident at the grass roots."

Last night's meeting followed the highly-publicised row at a cricket match in June between Marlborough and Radley Colleges, which led to the cancellation of all fixtures between the schools. Marlborough batsmen complained of verbal abuse and refused to declare their tunings in time to give Radley a realistic prospect of victory.

Radley staff and pupils apologised for their team's "sledging", but Richard Morgan, the warden, later announced that it was "in the interests of both schools" to suspend fixtures in the main sports.

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Tony Blair in Moscow yesterday with Olga Moshkina, winner of a British Council competition

Stranger on the Moscow Metro

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

IRINA SILINA expected to have a quiet mid-afternoon ride to her lecture across town yesterday until her Metro carriage was invaded by Russian secret policemen and a smiling Tony Blair.

On his short and hectic first visit to Moscow, the Prime Minister took time out from his Kremlin meetings to make contact with "real Russians".

The experiment received at best mixed results. Some, particularly the elderly, who were brought up to mistrust foreigners, especially those with their hands outstretched and a grin on their faces, turned tail and fled. For them, there are only two British Prime Ministers — Winston Churchill, and

Margaret Thatcher, who many believe is still in power. Others, like the granite-faced Metro attendants returned the smile, particularly when Mr Blair's legs were momentarily crushed by the automatic turnstiles, which had rejected the special card handed to him only moments earlier by Dimitri Gayev, the embarrassed director of the Metro.

On the platform of Revolution Square station, Mr Blair began to break the ice. Some passengers were finally coaxed into handshake and brief greeting. Others rushed up when they saw who it was.

"Of course I know that was Tony Blair," said Sergei, a student insulted by the suggestion that he was ignorant of British politics. "I followed the election on TV. The only thing

I do not understand is what he is doing here." The Prime Minister's greatest success was achieved once he had boarded the train and set his eyes on Miss Silina. The Metro is

similar to London Underground in that attractive young women travelling alone are naturally suspicious of smiling older men.

Fortunately for Mr Blair, the 21-year-old not only spoke fluent English, but had been to a language school outside Birmingham. She did not even begin any personal grudges against the leader of a government whose embassy had treated her to a difficult and insulting manner when she applied for a visa.

Earlier, Mr Blair met another attractive young Muscovite, Olga Moshkina, 16, who won a competition sponsored by the British Council and will attend a language course in London.

Yeltsin's embrace, page 11

Irina Silina meeting a stranger on the Metro

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soaking used stamps off letters or removing them." The fiddly stamping, ally and torment of generations of collectors will be no help in the face of the sticky stamp. It will be necessary to use the modern glue, just as a piece of transparent brown with age, will corrode the stamps in albums.

Royal Mail research indicates that trials of the new stamps have already saved Scottish firms a total of 740 working days. The modern stamp is 12 per cent quicker to deploy than the gummed variety.

The stamps have not been without their teething problems. In 1994 when they went on trial in the North East some thirty folk discovered the stamps could be reused by wiping away the postmark

with a damp cloth. Production was halted and creatives at the Royal Mail laboratories in Swindon returned to the drawing board to come up with an insoluble franking ink.

Once reissued the stamps ran into more trouble when customers reported the adhesive was too strong and the stamps tore in half before they could be parted from the backing paper. The trial was abandoned in 1995.

At last, it seems, the dream of the self-sticking stamp is to become a reality. After the extensive trial in Scotland, where more than 26 million were sold in six months, the Royal Mail has decided to release the stamps nationwide. They will be available only in standard first and second class.



"He forgot they were self-adhesive again"

Hillsborough judge apologises over Liverpool slur



Stuart-Smith: his apology was accepted

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE judge heading the inquiry into the Hillsborough tragedy apologised to relatives of the victims last night after infuriating them with an off-the-cuff remark. There were calls for Lord Justice Stuart-Smith to be removed from his handling of the new scrutiny into the tragedy after his remarks, made in Liverpool.

The judge asked Phil Hammond, whose teenage son, Philip, died at Hillsborough: "Have you got a few of your people or are they like the Liverpool fans - turn up at the last minute?" Families hit by the tragedy

were incensed, particularly as the question came from the man with the job of carrying out a "focused scrutiny" into the disaster at the Sheffield Wednesday ground, in which 96 fans died.

"I can't believe that remark," Mr Hammond said. "I just walked away. He said, 'Are all your families here or are they going to be like Liverpool fans?'

The comment appeared to refer to the controversial issue of whether "late" Liverpool fans contributed to the tragedy at the 1990 FA Cup semi-final.

Last night the judge, 69, apologised to Mr Hammond and

other family representatives, according to a Home Office spokeswoman. The judge was said to very much regret his off-the-cuff remark. He also made it clear he had not made his mind up about the outcome of the scrutiny.

The Hillsborough Family Support Group last night accepted the apology. The chairman, Trevor Hicks, whose teenage daughters, Sarah and Victoria, were among those who died, said the families had decided to accept the apology "without reservation". However, he said that the inquiry had "got off to a bad start". Apart from the judge's remark, there was the question of

his terms of reference. There were issues which were not part of the new scrutiny, he said. These would be raised with the Home Office.

"We had a private meeting afterwards and discussed this morning's gaffe. We are going to carry on for the moment but make the Home Office aware of our views and on our thoughts on the terms of reference."

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith's visit to Liverpool was part of the in-depth probe ordered by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, in June. Jack Spriggs, chairman of the Liverpool City Council Hillsborough Disaster Working Party, which was set up in

the wake of the tragedy, said the judge should resign. "I don't think he can just laugh this off as a flippant remark. I think he may have a pre-determined view and he should be replaced," he said.

Mr Spriggs went on: "I will be making the suggestion to the Hillsborough working party next week. We support the families and will continue to support them if they wish to continue working with this judge. He's an eminent judge who shouldn't be making a reference like this. I don't think he should be making off-the-cuff comments about death or this investigation."

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith is in

Liverpool for three days to listen to evidence gathered about the disaster and particularly the role played by the police on the day. He will look at new evidence that may cast doubt on other inquiries and the "inquest verdicts of accidental death".

Last week senior family representatives met the judge in London where they presented closed circuit camera footage which they believe shows police were aware of danger signs leading up to the crush on the Leppings Lane terraces. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith will interview 16 families individually over the next two days.

Court orders re-run in seat lost by two votes

Ex-minister has second chance of election victory, writes James Landale

THE Tories and Liberal Democrats are to rejoin battle in a by-election for Winchester after the High Court declared the general election result in the Hampshire seat to be void.

The historic decision gives Gerald Malone, the former Health Minister, a chance to recapture his seat in Parliament. The former Tory MP lost the constituency in May by two votes, the smallest recorded margin for a Westminster seat, after two recounts.

In the first annulment of a Parliamentary election result since 1910, Lord Justice Brooke said that the poll was void because officials had failed to stamp correctly 55 ballot papers. Under Britain's election laws, ballot papers cannot be counted unless they have been stamped with an official perforation mark at the polling station.

If a judge believes the final result would have changed had these papers been counted, he has to declare the election void. Mr Malone's lawyers claimed that the Tories would have won by two votes if the 55 rejected papers had been counted.

Mark Caten, the Liberal Democrat who won the seat with 26,100 votes, will remain

an MP until the Speaker orders the by-election. If she moves the writ when MPs return to the Commons on October 27, the poll is likely to be held towards the end of November.

Labour, which polled only 10 per cent of the vote in May, has little chance of winning the seat. Officials denied reports that the party would not put up a candidate to boost the Liberal Democrats' chances.

"It is highly unlikely that we will not put up a candidate," a spokesman said. However, Labour is unlikely to campaign hard.

Mr Malone is likely to pick up some of the 1,598 votes



Liberal Mark Caten: "MP for years yet"

which Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party secured in Winchester in May. The Referendum Party has reformed into a political "movement" and no longer fights seats.

However, Derek Rurnsey, the United Kingdom Independence Party candidate who won 476 votes in May, is likely to stand, according to his 69-year-old wife, June. She said:

"There will be a meeting later this week but at present there is an intention to stand."

Mr Malone said he was looking forward to the election and predicted that the public mood was swinging towards the Tories.

"Whatever polls say, the mood of the country has been changing in the real world," he told the BBC's *World at One* programme. "It will be a changed political landscape when we go back to the electorate. I'm very much looking forward to that opportunity."

Mr Oaten welcomed the judge's decision not to hand the seat directly to the Tories, as Mr Malone had initially demanded.

Mr Oaten is hoping that he will secure the support of the 640 voters who backed Richard Huggert, a maverick "Liberal Democrat - Top

Choice for Parliament" candidate in May. "The tiny number of void ballot papers claimed by Gerry Malone pale into insignificance beside the 640 votes cast for the hoax candidate," he said.

"It would have been a great injustice if the actions of a hoax candidate had resulted in the seat being handed from one party to another. The result was close last time so I suppose there are grounds for both of us to be confident. But I've had the benefit of being the MP, working hard, getting to know constituents over the last six months."

He said: "I'm delighted that with a by-election the people of Winchester can settle this. I've got a feeling I'm going to be the MP for Winchester for many years to come yet."

Winchester's returning officer is expected to have to pay the estimated £50,000 costs of the legal action. The Home Office will pay for the by-election.

The last time a result was declared void in 1910 a Liberal Democrat four-vote majority at Exeter became a Tory majority of one in the resulting by-election.

TONY BLAIR will today

link schools to Internet

BY NICHOLAS WAIT AND PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

TONY BLAIR will today enlist the support of Bill Gates, the world's richest man, for a £100 million scheme to link Britain's 32,000 schools to the Internet by 2002.

Detective Inspector Peter Chapman, head of the NCIS football unit, told a press conference, Mr Blair will welcome the billionaire chairman of Microsoft to Downing Street to set the seal on the Government's National Grid for Learning initiative.

As the two men hold talks in Downing Street, Ofcom, the telephone regulator, will announce that it has reached agreement with BT and cable companies to provide cheap lines for schools.

At their meeting in Downing Street the Prime Minister will brief Mr Gates on his plan to provide £100 million of public money to allow every school in Britain to buy the latest technology to link up to the Internet by 2002. At the moment only 6,000 schools have access.

The Prime Minister's Nat-

ional Grid for Learning scheme will be a network of educational material on the Internet to help pupils of all ages. The scheme will help pupils studying Information Technology in the National Curriculum and will help those with the core skills of numeracy and literacy.

Mr Blair, who outlined his initiative to last week's Labour Party conference, hopes that companies such as Microsoft will provide the

equipment for the scheme. A Downing Street spokesman said: "We are not favouring any one company. But the Prime Minister is meeting Mr Gates because he is keen to talk to people who are at the forefront of the technology that will be able to help him achieve his aim."

After his meeting with Mr Gates, the Prime Minister will travel to a West London comprehensive school for the formal launch of his National Grid for Learning scheme publication paper.

Mr Gates, who will be on a

one day visit to Britain, will travel from Downing Street to Cambridge, where he is expected to announce a scheme to fund teacher training in Britain.

Britain already has the best

computer-to-student ratio in the world with an average of 85 computers at every secondary school, one for every nine pupils.

Primary schools have one

computer for every 18 pupils, compared with one per 500 pupils in Germany.

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Trial by temptation as chocoholic Bar chews over the evidence

By ROBIN YOUNG

IT WAS a case, counsel suggested, in which the evidence might best be taken in bite-sized pieces.

In Court 59 at the Royal Courts of Justice, bars of chocolate were handed appreciatively from bench to bench, from solicitor to barrister, from barrister to marshal and from marshal to judge.

So far as one could see none was eaten, but at the end of yesterday's

hearing the judge, Mr Justice Laddie, said he could not promise that his collection would survive the night.

It was the opening of what is expected to be a seven-day hearing in which the Swiss chocolate industry is attempting to stop Cadbury, the British chocolate company, from marketing a bar called Swiss Chalet.

Simon Thorley, QC, for Chocolisse and the Swiss choc-

late companies Suchard and Lindt as plaintiffs, said that Swiss Chalet was made in the UK and did not conform to Swiss standards of chocolate-making because it contained a high percentage of vegetable fat and chocolate of coarser particle size than the Swiss industry would permit.

Mr Thorley said that Swiss chocolate had a particularly high reputation, and supported this suggestion with bars of Swiss

chocolate marketed under that name by Marks & Spencer and Tesco, which he passed up to the judge. "It shows you have a reputation if people want to join your club. If no one wanted to join you would have a problem."

Mr Justice Laddie queried whether chocolate made in Switzerland to Swiss regulations, which have recently changed to permit the use of 5 per cent vegetable fat, would be recognised

as Swiss. Mr Thorley replied that it would depend on many factors, "but Cadbury's Swiss Chalet is not made to any Swiss recipe, and resembles Dairy Milk rather than any Swiss chocolate. It is not made in Switzerland and it does not conform to Swiss regulations."

He added that it was not his case that Cadbury made substandard chocolate. "I can eat this with confidence," the judge asked, holding up his bar of Swiss Chalet.

"Yes, unless you are allergic to hazelnuts," Mr Thorley replied.

"I am only allergic to dieting," the judge said, returning the bar to his stockpile with contentment.

Shortly after Mr Thorley could

not resist quoting a respondent in a survey carried out by Cadbury. Asked what he could tell the researcher about Swiss Chalet, the respondent had replied: "It is made by Cadbury. They do not make real chocolate." However,

Mr Thorley has already admitted one embarrassing precedent. Between 1991 and 1994, he admitted, "Lindt UK marketed in Britain an Easter egg which was called Swiss Chalet."

"The other plaintiffs in this case did not know of that, and as far as they are concerned they feel that obviously it should not have happened. They were made in the UK, but their sales were small." The hearing continues.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Plain English flew over tale of office affair

By RUSSELL JENKINS

AN EMPLOYEE of the Plain English Campaign resorted to plain speaking in the face of rumours that he was having an affair with a female colleague, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Martin Nobbs, 53, accused Chrissie Maher, founder of the group committed to fighting gobbledegook, of helping to fuel a whispering campaign. He marched into her office at the group's headquarters in New Mills, Derbyshire, threw his briefcase across the desk and demanded: "What the *** is going on?"

Mr Nobbs, an assistant development officer, had returned from holiday to find that office desks had been rearranged so that he and his colleague, Jill Cushway, 29, were separated from each other. He also claimed he had been "bounced" from a planned presentation in North

Yorkshire that would have required the couple to stay overnight.

Mr Nobbs, a married man from Bakewell, Derbyshire, later resigned, claiming that Miss Maher had made his professional life unbearable. He is claiming constructive dismissal from his £12,000-a-year post.

Miss Maher, who strongly denies spreading rumours about Mr Nobbs, said that during summer last year, he and Mrs Cushway had taken a trailer and caravan "roadshow" around the country, giving presentations. At around this time rumours had begun in the office that they were sleeping together.

Miss Maher said that Mr Nobbs and Mrs Cushway did develop a close relationship, getting on very well and going everywhere together. The dispute between Miss

Maher and Mr Nobbs came to a head in February last year when Mr Nobbs discovered that he and Mrs Cushway were no longer going to Scarborough. He accused Miss Maher of asking David Bray, a freelance speaker, to deliver the presentation on the grounds that Mr Nobbs and Mrs Cushway could not go because they were having an affair.

Miss Maher denied this. In her evidence she said: "It is quite untrue to suggest that I told David Bray the reason she was not sending them was because they were having an affair. I heard rumours that they were having an affair, but I couldn't believe it."

She added: "He walked into the office, threw his case on the desk and said: 'What the *** is going on? Why are Jill and I not going?' When he had asked her to stop the work in the office to tell employees that there was no affair, she had told him not to be so silly.

George Morrison, for Mr Nobbs, said the tribunal had heard nothing to suggest that Mr Bray was lying when he had said that Miss Maher had told him that the reason she was refusing to send Mr Nobbs and Mrs Cushway to Scarborough was because they were having an affair. He said that after Miss Maher refused to investigate the rumours he had to resign.

The tribunal panel, sitting in Manchester, reserved judgment.

Three of Britain's most courageous women were honoured for their heroism yesterday at the Women of the Year Awards (Carol Midgley writes).

Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse awarded the George Medal for bravery for saving children from a machete-wielding attacker, was commended with Doreen Lawrence, mother of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence, and Rita Restorick, who has campaigned for peace in Northern Ireland since her soldier son was shot

dead by an IRA sniper. The 500 guests at the event held at the Savoy Hotel, London, included royalty, celebrities and leading businesswomen. Queen Noor of Jordan, the special guest, led the gathering in a minute's silence for Diana, Princess of Wales. The Princess had been guest of honour at two previous lunches. Also among the guests was Jean Aitchison, Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford University. Queen Noor presented the Frink

Award to Elaine Noad, director of community services with South Ayrshire Council. Blind for 20 years, Mrs Noad, 40, has held the most senior position of any blind person in local government. Mrs Lawrence said: "I have always been proud of my son and I hope that young people can take courage from him and reach their potential in life when he was robbed of his."

Ms Potts, 22, said of her experience: "That day, my life changed completely. One moment I was a nursery nurse,

the next I was all over the media just because I did something which was so instinctive." She is now involved in charity work and is writing a children's prayer book.

Mrs Restorick paid tribute to both her son and the Roman Catholic woman injured by the same bullet that killed him. She said: "If anyone was a woman of courage it was Lorraine McIlroy, who spoke out. Living in a border area, that took a lot of courage. That guided me as to how I could come to terms with Stephen's death."

Hindley is moved to be near friend

By STEWART TENDERLE

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE moors murderer Myra Hindley has been temporarily transferred from the top security unit at Durham to Highpoint prison in Suffolk to allow her to have more visits.

It is thought the move will allow Hindley to see her friend Nina Wilde, a criminologist she reportedly "married" at a secret lesbian ceremony in Hindley's cell at Durham jail two years ago.

Highpoint prison originally housed only male prisoners and was nicknamed the "Hi-de-Hi" prison because of the large number of escapes. There were riots in the prison, and drug testing was introduced in 1994. The female wing was opened last year.

Hindley has served 31 years for her part in the murders of four children with her lover Ian Brady. She has been told that she will never be released, but a court case is planned later this year to challenge the decision.

According to Prison Service officials, she has been moved to Highpoint as part of standard procedure to help to clear up a backlog of visits that she is owed.

Rape case told of hoorays as six officers had sex

By TIM JONES

SIX naked army officers cheered and shouted "hooray" as they took it turns to have sex with a young student, a court was told yesterday. Officer Cadet Nicholas Oettinger, 20, had told a police interviewer that the woman, 23, was laughing and joking as they took it turns to have intercourse with her. Oxford Crown Court was told.

In his interview, Mr Oettinger claimed the woman had been a willing participant. He said: "We all laughed and cheered and hoorayed. It was excellent fun. That is how it went on for about 20 minutes. Everybody was laughing and joking. Everybody seemed perfectly happy."

Denying he had forced himself on her against her will, he said: "We are all responsible guys and integrity is part of the job."

He claimed that as the woman lay naked on a bed at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire, she was playing with two men who were lying on either side

PC 'helped man track wife's lover'

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A POLICE officer helped a man to track down his ex-wife's new lover through his car registration number, a court was told yesterday.

PC Lawson Jones, 49, ran the check on the numberplate at the request of his friend Marilyn Elliott, who then boasted to his ex-wife that he knew more about her new man than she did, the jury at Swindon Crown Court was told. Mr Elliott told her he had found out all about her lover with the help of a "friend who owed him a favour".

Father-of-two Mr Elliott, 48, who was divorced from his wife Christine in 1994, turned to PC Jones for help in tracing her new boyfriend last February. It was alleged, Mrs Elliott had moved out of the marital home in Westbury, Wiltshire, and gone to live in Skelton, North Yorkshire.

PC Jones, of Westbury, who worked in the Force Intelligence Bureau at Wiltshire Police, denies knowingly disclosing personal information, an offence under the Data Protection Act. Mr Elliott denies procuring the disclosure of personal data.

The trial continues.

Sizzling sausages cost Scouts dear

By PAUL WILKINSON

MORE than 250 children face the closure of their Scout and Guide group after a neighbour convinced a court that their activities were too noisy.

Graham Betts had kept a 21-year catalogue of the disturbances at the Scout hut next door, from the sizzling of sausages to feet-skipping during a Guide meeting.

Mr Betts, described in court as a professional complainer, had successfully obtained a noise abatement order against the Brayton Scout and Guide Association near Selby in North Yorkshire. Yesterday the town's magistrates rejected the group's appeal against the order. The association was given 26 weeks to carry out sound-deadening work, and was ordered to pay £3,000



Mr Betts said noise of games was horrendous

he moved into his detached house in the village in 1976. He claimed that the "interminable" noise from the Scout hut had been a source of great annoyance. Heavy stomping on the hut's wooden

floor was the main nuisance. Mr Betts, whose wife Josephine is deputy headmistress at the local infants school, said: "Take skipping. If you have 12 people simultaneously jumping on the floor, then the sound can be horrendous. I feel that over the years we have been tolerant, patient and generous." He had offered £1,000 towards the cost of soundproofing.

At an earlier hearing, Alan Sellers, for the Scouts, said: "Mr Betts is quite simply a professional complainer who has, over the years, complained on literally hundreds of occasions."

Sheila Newsome, a Brownie leader, said Mr Betts was still complaining and had recently objected to an outdoor sausage sizzle because his washing was on the line.

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Adams to confirm democratic intent

Sinn Fein seeks to reassure after 'smash Union' speech; says Martin Fletcher

FULL-SCALE peace talks open at Stormont today, with Gerry Adams striving to defuse a new row about the extent of Sinn Fein's commitment to peaceful democratic methods.

At the weekend, Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, declared that his goal in the negotiations was to "smash" the Union. "We have not struggled for the last 27 years against the might of the British government, the British military forces, sometimes the Free State government and the British government to take one step towards consolidating partition on this island," he told a republican rally in Coalisland, Co Tyrone.

But last night Sinn Fein released a partial text of the opening speech that Mr Adams, will deliver today in which he insists that Sinn Fein "is absolutely committed to democratic and peaceful methods of resolving problems". The Sinn Fein president says that while his party will be "seeking to promote the

broadsheet nationalist objective of an end to British rule in Ireland", its objective would be "to achieve through dialogue among the Irish people an agreed Ireland".

He speaks of a "huge gap of mistrust between nationalists and Unionists" that "must be bridged", and of reaching an accommodation in which both traditions feel secure.

But even before Mr Mc-

Guinness's comments, Ulster Unionist Party leaders were adamant that Sinn Fein had no interest in a negotiated settlement, and that the only possible agreement to emerge from the talks would be with the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party provided it cast Sinn Fein adrift.

Reg Empey, an Ulster Unionist negotiator, said that Mr McGuinness's "rantings" were designed to placate supporters unhappy at the ceasefire and thus "a sign of weakness". Peter Robinson, of the Democratic Unionist Party, said that it was plain that Sinn Fein would accept only a united Ireland.

Lord Alderdice, leader of the Alliance Party, said that Mr McGuinness's remarks showed that the Sinn Fein leadership "does not yet realise the kind of democratic process which they have joined". He said: "These talks are about building a new stable, peaceful, democratic future."

On a BBC Radio Ulster yesterday, Mr McGuinness

conceded that "a tame word such as 'end' the Union would have been more appropriate", adding "but that does not change the Sinn Fein message. Sinn Fein is an Irish republican party; we believe that British rule should end."

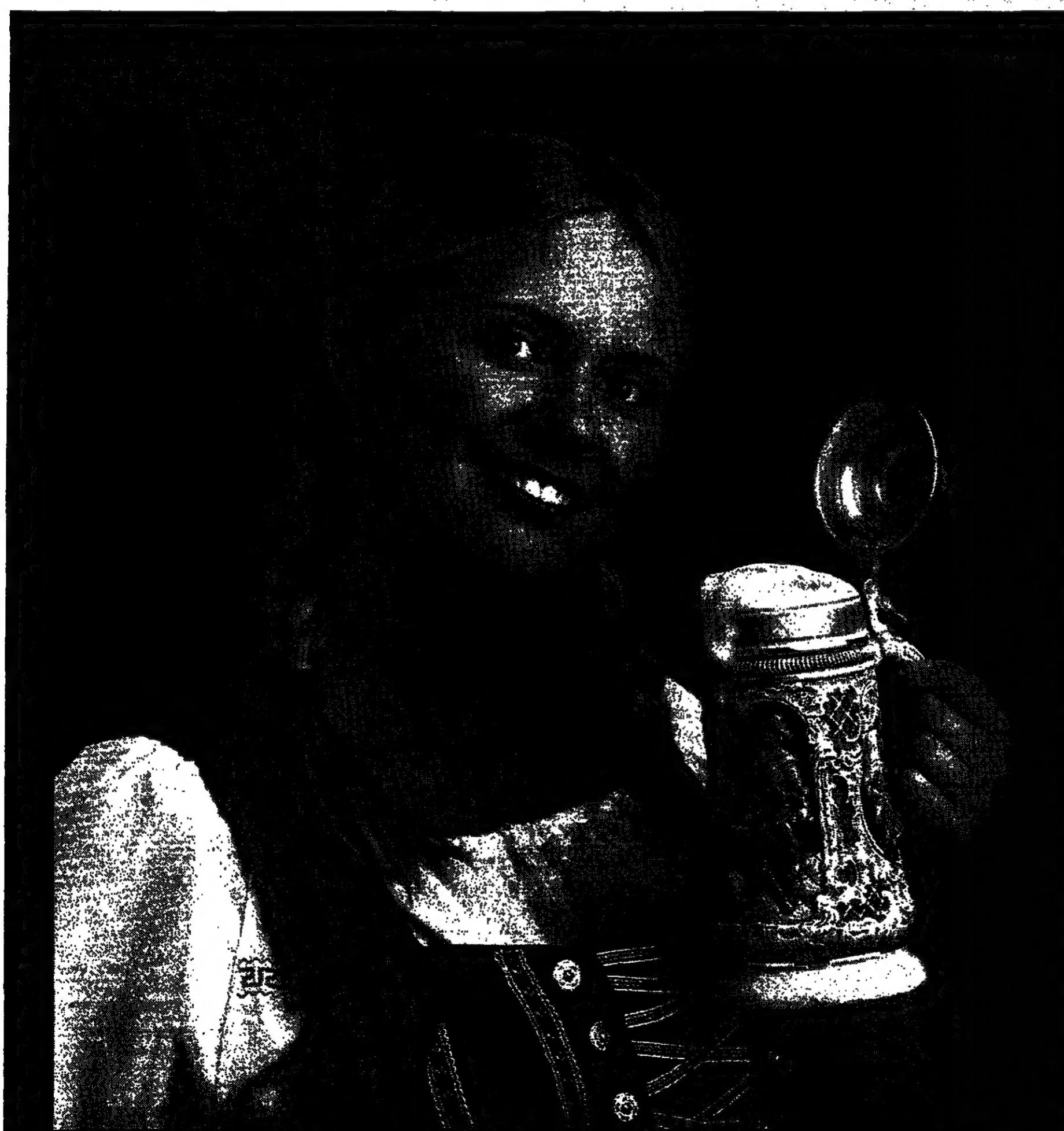
In Belfast today, the parties will set out their formal negotiating positions for the three strands of the talks — one dealing with internal political arrangements for Northern Ireland; another with North-South relations; and the third with relations between Dublin and London. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, will not have returned from Washington, where he is having discussions with members of the US administration.

The Irish Justice Minister, John O'Donoghue, will lead Dublin's delegation, replacing the Foreign Minister, Ray Burke, who is attending a funeral. Dublin emphasised last night that his absence was not connected to allegations that have been made against him.

McGuinness: said he wanted to smash Union



Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, on Tyneside yesterday. She will be at Stormont for the talks today



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Al Fayed team 'lied' over last words of Diana

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

MOHAMED AL FAYED yesterday faced another damaging row over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, after a spokesman for the Paris hospital where she died contradicted the millionaire's claim to have passed on her 'last words'.

The day before the funeral of the Princess, Michael Cole, Mr Al Fayed's spokesman, said that the owner of Harrods had been approached at La Pitié Salpêtrière hospital on the day of her death "by someone ... who helped the Princess during her final hours".

Mr Cole said that the Princess's "final words and requests" had been passed on by Mr Al Fayed to someone close to the Princess whom he refused to identify.

Thierry Merves, head of communications at the hospital, yesterday said the story of the Princess's last words was "completely false" and "an invention by Mr Al Fayed's entourage".

The denial sparked an angry response from Mr Cole, who said that legal moves were under way in Paris "to find out why this was said and on what basis".

The hospital official said that the Princess never regained consciousness after she was admitted to the hospital on August 31, and added that "Michelle Boller", the nurse he said had been identified by an Al Fayed lawyer as having heard the Princess's last words, did not exist.

To make the story more credible, the name of a nurse was given. M Merves said:



Cole declined to name source of story

Wee Wee Frees attack funeral for 'superstition'

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE ultra strict Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland has criticised Earl Spencer, Elton John, the Dean of Westminster Abbey and the public for the way in which they mourned the Princess.

The Rev Neil Ross, of Dingwall, Ross-shire, a leading light in the small Calvinist church known as the Wee Wee Frees, says that people showed "a dismal lack of spiritual understanding" and acted almost as if the Princess should be worshipped like a saint.

In the October edition of *Free Presbyterian Magazine and Monthly Record*, Mr Ross writes: "To show proper civil respect at the death of those of high status is one thing, to speak of them as if they were to be worshipped is deplorable."

While expressing sadness at the "horrifying circumstances" of the Princess's death, Mr Ross accuses the singer at her funeral of "Nazi-style superstition" because of the way they addressed, not God but the deceased.

He says the Dean, the Very Rev Wesley Carr, spoke to the Princess as if she was alive saying: "Diana, our companion in faith and sister in Christ . . . Earl Spencer is also criticised for speaking directly.

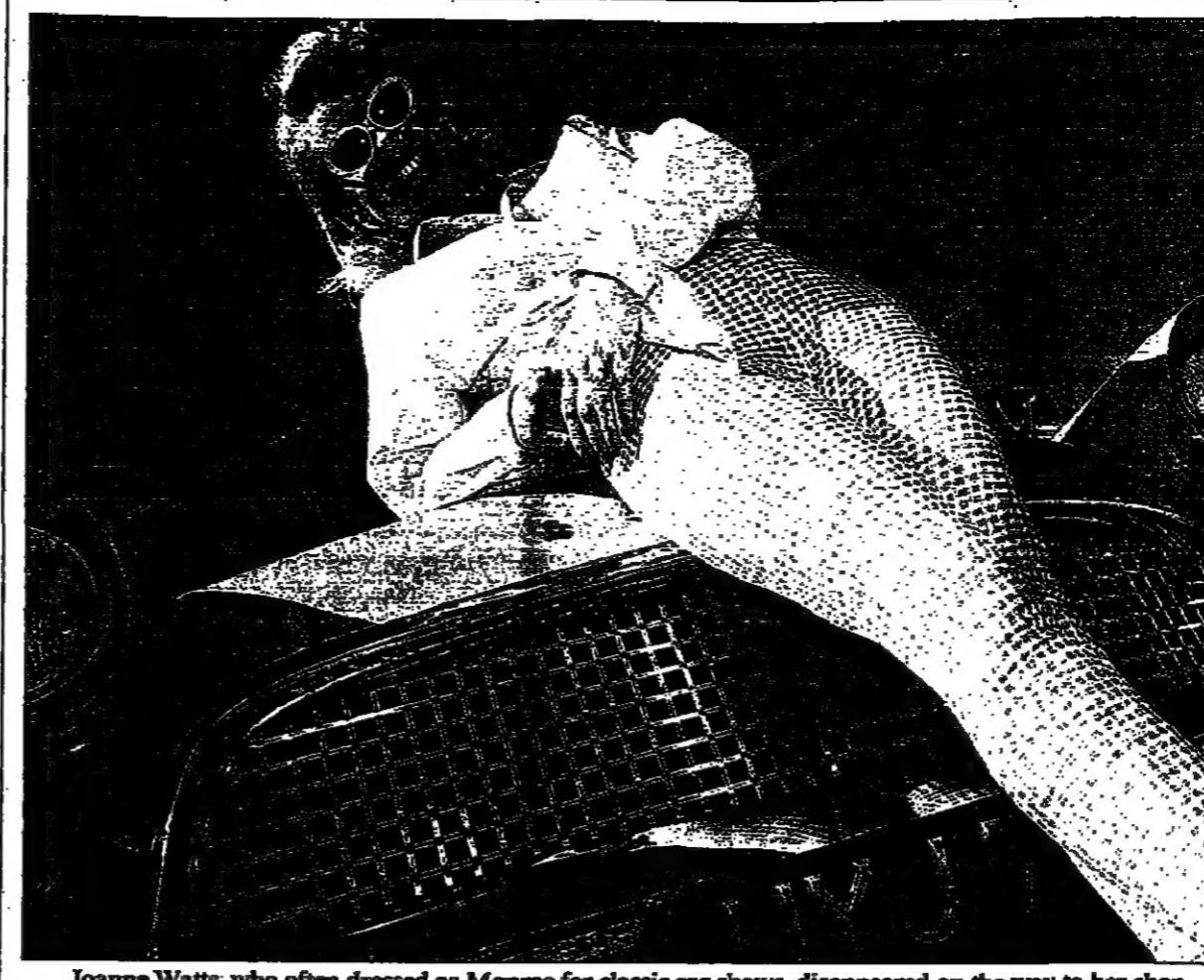


Elton John: song was offensive, says clergyman

latest in a series of public relations rows involving Mr Al Fayed. Immediately after the crash, Mr Cole accused photographers following the car of behaving like "Red Indians" and of direct responsibility for the deaths of the Princess, Dodi Fayed and the car's driver, Henri Paul.

But as the investigation continued it became clear that the photographers were some distance behind the car when it crashed. Medical evidence showed that M Paul was three times over the legal drink-driving limit. Mr Al Fayed's spokesman first demanded additional tests, and then fell silent as the focus switched to the possible responsibility of the Ritz for allowing M Paul to drive.

Libby Purves, page 20
Letters, page 21



Joanne Watts, who often dressed as Monroe for classic car shows, disappeared on the way to her shop

Marilyn Monroe lookalike vanishes

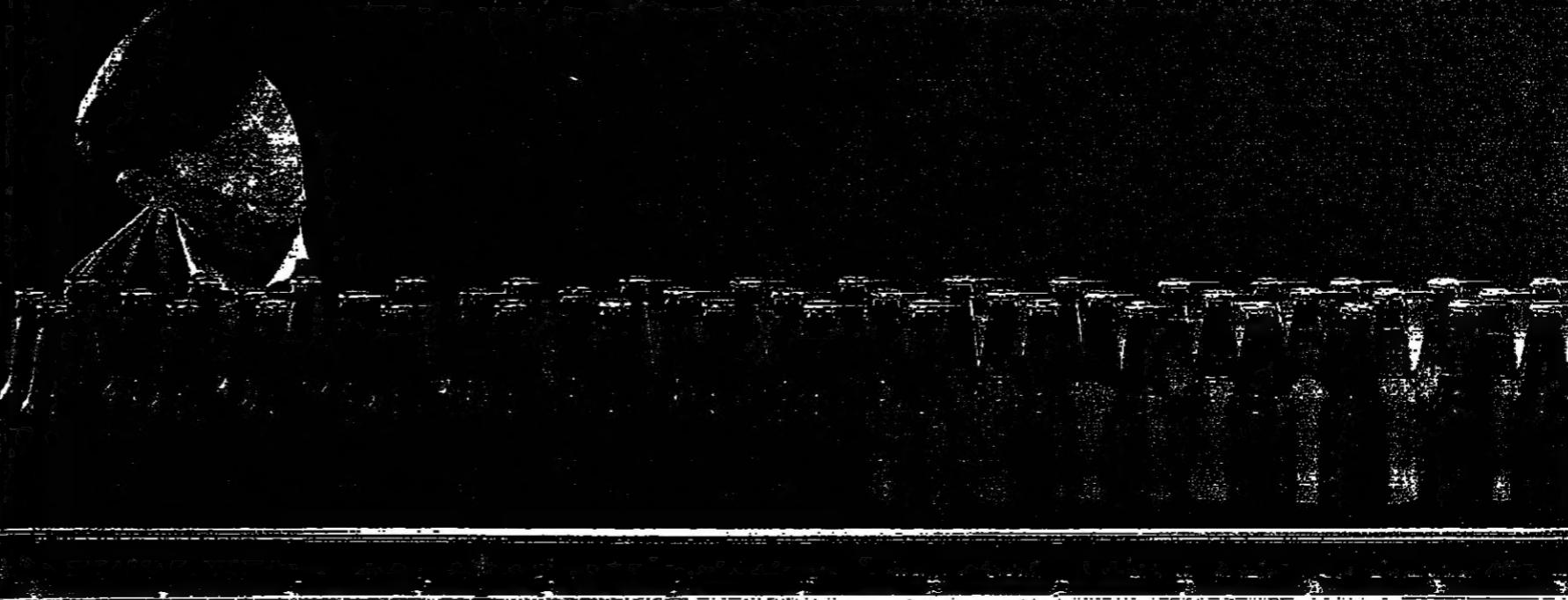
THE husband of a missing Marilyn Monroe lookalike spoke yesterday of his fears for her safety. Gary Watts, 33, said that his wife Joanne, who often dressed as the star for 1950s classic car shows, had been her usual happy self when she left their home in Gosport, Hampshire, on Saturday to visit a fancy dress shop she owned.

"She told me she was going to go to a book fair in Alverstoke, then go on to the shop. She would have very little money on her. She just went out in jeans and a shirt."

Mr Watts has kept his wife's disappearance a secret from their children, Jody, five, and Jasmine, eight.

Gosport police are appealing for two of her friends, Claire and Sarah, from the Hilsa area of Portsmouth, to contact them. Mrs Watts, 35, is 5ft 5in tall and was driving a blue Fiat Strada Cabriolet, registration BI31 XOW.

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Mother behind anti-drugs campaign was heroin supplier



She showed off her son's body to warn his friends but hid truth about herself, reports Simon de Bruxelles

A WOMAN who launched an anti-drugs campaign after her 14-year-old son died of an overdose was yesterday convicted of supplying heroin.

Tracy Thummel, 35, displayed her son Damien's body to his friends in an attempt to scare them away from drugs after his death in July last year. But Thummel, of Nantyglo, South Wales, was herself a dealer and heroin user with a £30-a-week habit.

Yesterday she admitted possessing and supplying heroin at Newport Crown Court. David Webster, for the prosecution, said police

moved in after a tip-off that drugs were being sold from Thummel's home. A buyer told detectives how she let him in to the house and took him upstairs to see her other son, Luke. The buyer paid for a £5 deal which was handed to him by Thummel. Shortly afterwards police raided the house and arrested both Thummel and her son.

Mr Webster said: "She said in interview that she did not take drugs herself and had no knowledge of her son's activities."

But two months later, Thummel was stopped in her car as she drove home from Bristol and drugs squad

officers found 555mg of heroin on her. "She was arrested and admitted she had smoked heroin for six months," Mr Webster said. "She had bought the heroin that day in Bristol and spent £30 a week on her own consumption."

Judge Tom Crowther put Thummel on probation for 12 months. Although the offences were "not trivial", he said they were not serious enough for prison. He told her: "I should give you the opportunity to take advantage of the support of the Probation Service and demonstrate that you are capable of breaking this noxious habit and

leading a more satisfactory and happy life in future." At an earlier hearing Luke Thummel admitted supplying heroin and was sent to a young offender institution for four years.

Damien died from an overdose of methadone, a heroin substitute prescribed to his brother. Before Damien's funeral Thummel invited his friends to see his body in a coffin at her home.

She warned the youngsters: "If you take drugs you'll end up the same way as Damien. Say no to drugs. It's an evil trade."

She backed a "Shop A Dealer"

telephone hotline which the public could use to pass on information to police.

In an interview last November she said: "Luke had been doing very well and was nearly off drugs when Damien died. He idolised his brother and is determined to get rid of the problem that took Damien away. I wander around expecting him to come in laughing like he used to. But he's gone and the drug pushers are still out there. They wait to pounce on other children."

Before the drugs he was a very loving little boy. He liked swimming and reading the Bible."



Damien: overdose at 14

I did not break the law, Porter tells High Court

DAME Shirley Porter, the former Conservative leader of Westminster City Council, yesterday declared her innocence as she began her legal challenge to the £31 million surcharge imposed over the "names-for-votes" scandal.

She is one of several former councillors and officers who claim that the district auditor, John Magill, acted unlawfully and unfairly by accusing them of "wilful misconduct" and "disgraceful and improper gerrymandering" over the sale of council homes in marginal wards between 1987 and 1989. In May last year, Mr Magill made the councillors and council officials "jointly and severally" liable to repay the amount he estimated to have been wrongly spent as they sold council homes to people thought to be likely to vote Conservative.

Dame Shirley, 66, heiress to the Tesco shopping empire, stood on the steps of the High Court in London yesterday and said: "I am absolutely innocent and I am here today to clear my name."

She was cross-examined by Alan Jones, QC, for the district auditor, who claimed that she had expected everyone — councillors, officers and private consultants, alike — to

business by asking employees to draft reports and carry out other work on party political matters as opposed to legitimate council work.

When council employees were unable to provide justifications for Tory policies, he claimed, private consultants had been asked to produce "fancy economic reasons" for packing key seats with Tory council home buyers.

He accused Dame Shirley of being present in September 1986 when a group of consultants was told the aim was to "push Labour voters out of marginal wards". Dame Shirley denied this, saying: "The aspirations were to encourage the right sort of people to come in rather than to push people out." Asked by Mr Jones who she viewed as the "right sort", she replied: "Good citizens".

Dame Shirley insisted that policy had never been put into action without taking advice from council officers and lawyers to make sure it was legal.

Dame Shirley said that she had no real recollection of many conversations and meetings because they had happened ten years ago, and she had tried to "blot out" many of the events because of a hostile media attack on her. The hearing continues.

Westminster's former leader challenges £31m surcharge.

Stephen Farrell

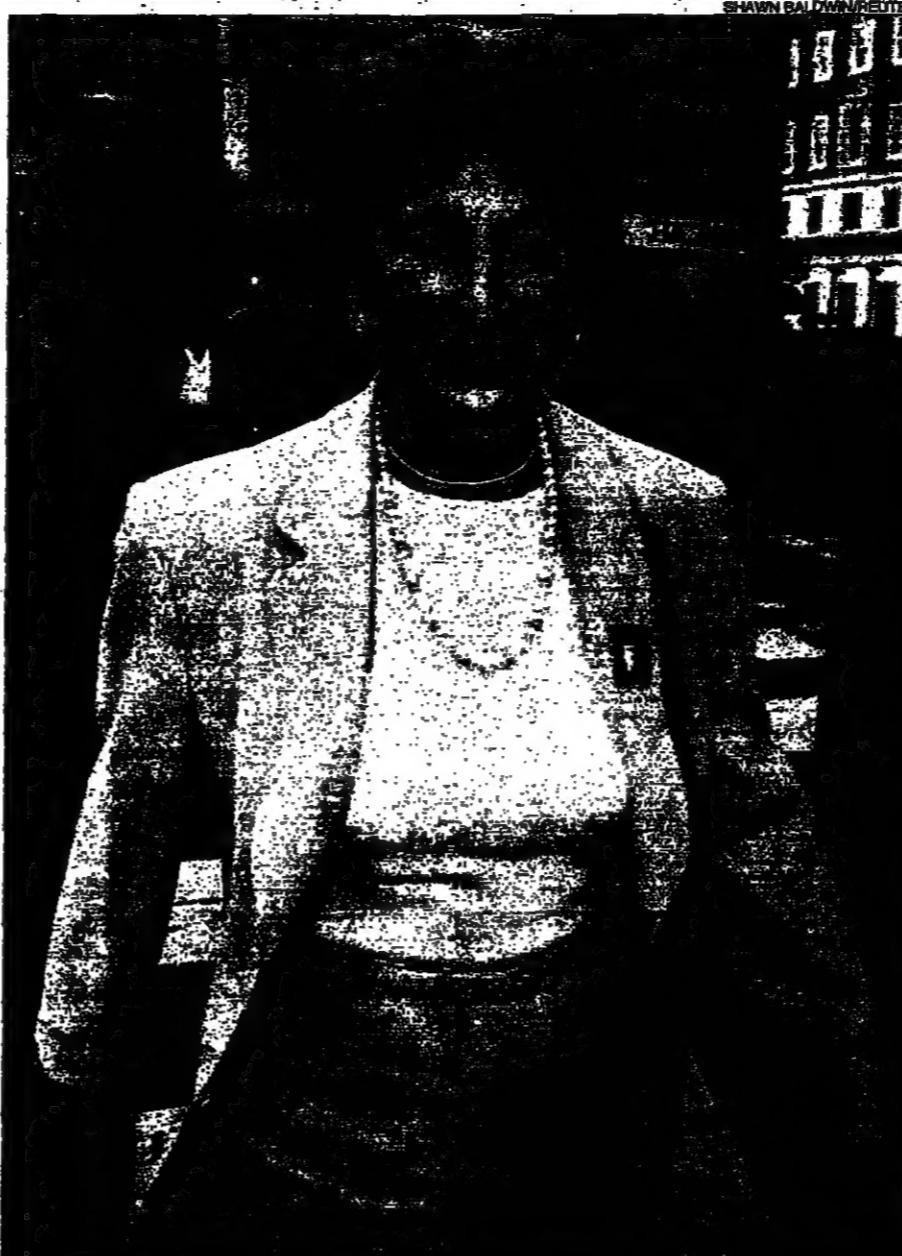
reports

push through Conservative policies. This, he said, included seeking to increase the Tory vote in eight marginal wards, by ensuring that there were "the right sort of people in the right areas".

Dame Shirley insisted that she had always acted properly, telling the court: "At no time would we have undertaken any policy which was in any way illegal. I have a very healthy respect for the law. I have been a magistrate for many years. The last thing I would wish to do is to lead a council into anything illegal.

Dame Shirley said that she had no real recollection of many conversations and meetings because they had happened ten years ago, and she had tried to "blot out" many of the events because of a hostile media attack on her. The hearing continues.

Mr Jones accused her of blurring the "great divide" between politics and council



Dame Shirley Porter, former leader of Westminster City Council, at the High Court yesterday

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Gucci lover is banned from keeping horses

Animals starved as family wrangled over fortune. Lin Jenkins reports

HORSES that had belonged to the late Paolo Gucci, millionaire grandson of the fashion founder, starved as the family wrangled over his fortune. One animal died and six had to be destroyed.

Yesterday Gucci's mistress was banned from keeping horses for five years. Penny Armstrong, 28, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to 11 pure-bred Arabs by omitting to provide care.

Armstrong ran out of money to feed horses on the 97-acre Millfield stud when Gucci, 64, died in October 1995 without leaving a will, prompting years of "extraordinary, complex proceedings at mind-boggling cost", Horsesham Magistrates' Court was told.

The mother of Gucci's two youngest children, aged 2 and 4, she lives on £20 a week child support and faces eviction from the manor house that she shared with him at Rusper, West Sussex.

An RSPCA inspector, Carol Lampert, and a veterinary surgeon, Brian Green, found horses starving when they examined all 110 at the stud in January this year. A two-year-old chestnut filly, Sonika, was lying in its own dung, unable to get up, emaciated and close to death.

David Buck, for the prosecution, said: "Initially she

appeared to be dead. We established that she was alive, but the dirt and faeces around the animal indicated that it had been recumbent for a long period and had had convulsive leg movements. It was put down on the spot."

A post-mortem examination found the filly's stomach was 20 per cent of its normal size and that the animal had probably not eaten for two weeks. Eleven other horses, all youngsters, were removed by the RSPCA for intensive care. They were emaciated, with bones protruding.

Armstrong was prosecuted over nine of them. She was ordered to pay the RSPCA compensation of £15,573 and

costs of £5,640. One filly foal, named Paloma, collapsed as it was led to the lorry. A two-year-old filly, Jezebel, was said by the vet to be markedly undersized. Despite being given drugs and put on a drip, it was put down ten days later after getting to its feet only once.

Amar, a yearling colt, had to be destroyed within a week of leaving the stud. A post-mortem examination found a complete lack of body fat and a stomach half its normal size. Mr Green concluded it had eaten nothing for at least two weeks.

Four horses recovered and were returned to the stud, which was disbanded a few months ago. The livestock raised £300,000.

Gucci left the family fashion empire about 15 years ago after a row with his father Aldo, but in 1987 he inherited an estimated £26 million when the family sold the business.

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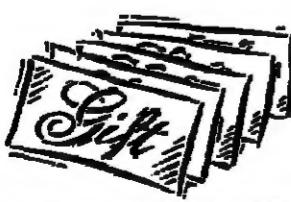
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Political feast with seats to spare

As the conference begins some big Tory names have found a pressing need to be elsewhere, writes Andrew Piercy

WILLIAM HAGUE'S coronation at Blackpool will today win a standing ovation from the faithful, a repeat of the rapturous reception he received as a precocious 16-year-old in 1977.

But the task of winning over the 3,500 activists at the Winter Gardens for the long battle against Labour ahead will prove more difficult than when the conference cheered his debut two decades ago.

There is little appetite for the crowning. There will be many empty places at the feast. Not only the voters are indifferent to Mr Hague. Captains of industry, Tory grandees, lobbyists and the media are voting with their feet. "Vacancy" signs, once unheard of during Tory conference week, outnumber the "no vacancy" signs.

Although once the great and the good were eager to be seen at the relentless round of political, industrial, and society parties, now they have become camera shy. The obligatory standing ovations could ring even hollow this week. The party's great orators, such as Michael Heseltine, have retired or are staying away. On the conference fringe only Michael Portillo and Lord Tebbit are sold out.

The Labour conference in Brighton was always going to be a hard act to follow. Even the sun shone on Tony Blair. By contrast the Meteorological Office is predicting bleak and overcast conditions in Blackpool.

Even Archie Norman, the MP, party vice-chairman and Asda chairman of whom so much is expected on the reorganisation of the shattered party machine, could not persuade his company to spend thousands of pounds entertaining the Tory troops. It was a different story last week when Labour was in town. The supermarket chain played host to dozens of ministers and MPs at one of the best attended parties of the week. But Asda, the company which Mr Norman transformed from financial ruin into a market leader, is conspicuous by its absence this week.

Adair Turner, the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, the bosses' union once viewed as a subsidiary of the Tories before Labour casted up to business, will be in the United States. Last week he was in Brighton.

Many of the privatised water companies, which owe their

TUESDAY
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THE LEADERSHIP
Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, will open the conference with the results of the ballot to endorse William Hague's leadership and reforms of the organisation. John Major will urge the party to unite behind his successor. Mr Hague will also make his first speech on the results of the ballot (10am).

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Europe, the issue which dogged John Major's administration, will return to the centre stage. Michael Howard, Foreign Secretary and arch Eurosceptic, will restore the party's opposition to joining a single currency under William Hague's leadership (9.30am).

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
John Major and Ian Duncan Smith will do a double act at an informal question-and-answer session (9.30am).

FINANCE
An appeal for donations will be led by Baroness Miller of Hendon. The party is deeply in the red (9.30am).

RECRUITMENT
The theme of the morning will be a "Fathers' Day" of British-based overseas conference delegates. Veteran constituency officials will be presented with awards in recognition of their long service. An appeal will be made for new and younger members to join the party.

LEADER'S SPEECH
William Hague will deliver the most important speech of his career on the theme of a "fresh future for Britain". He will be the youngest political leader to address a party conference this century (11pm).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Sir Norman Fowler, a veteran of Margaret Thatcher's first Shadow Cabinet in 1975, will lead the assault on a series of Labour town hall bills and make the renewal of the party's standing in local government a priority (2.30pm).

TRADE AND INDUSTRY
John Redwood, back on the conference platform after two years in the wilderness, will paint the Labour Party as bad for business because of its support for a minimum wage, EU social legislation, and regulations on industry (3.20pm).

HOME AFFAIRS
Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, who is chairing the policy review committee, will try to take the gloss off new Labour by attacking 57 tax rises since May 1 (1.15pm).

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COUNTRYSIDE
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REFORM AND RENEWAL
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FRINGE
Topics to be debated by the Charter Movement, which has campaigned for greater internal democracy; Eric Chappell, leading critic of the proposals, will be on the platform at the Claremont (8pm). William Hague and Fiona Shackleton will have the first waltz at the Young Conservatives' Ball at the Winter Gardens (9pm).

FRINGE
Michael Howard and John Gummer, former Cabinet colleagues, will be opponents in the Conservative Group for Europe debate at the Winter Gardens (9.45pm). Lord Tebbit is the star man at the Conservatives Against a Federal Europe rally at the ABC cinema (8pm).

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FRINGE
One of the most talked about events of the week, Michael Portillo, the last hero of the Tory Right, on the ghosts of Toryism past and the spirit of the Conservative future. Hosted by the Centre for Policy Studies at the Winter Gardens (8pm).

FRINGE
Margaret Thatcher's favourite businessman, has also stayed loyal. He will entertain guests at the British Airways bash.

But it is thin gruel by comparison to the glory days of the Thatcher years. Lord Saatchi, the advertising guru who masterminded the Tories election campaign whose party invitations were also a prized catch, has decided not to attend. M & C Saatchi, his company, which is unlikely to work for the Conservatives again after the furious rows that dogged the last campaign, is not hosting its usual reception. Sir Tim Bell, another member of the so-called three musketeers, has other commitments. Lord Hanson, a leading businessman closely associated with the promoting the Tories, will be in the United States.

But if it is the desertion of the traditional friends in the media that give Mr Hague the most cause for concern. Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers, which owns the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, will not be in Blackpool this week. He has not missed the Tory conference for 20 years.

Leading article, page 21

Clarke takes job as leader of Tory Left

KENNETH CLARKE assumed the leadership of the Tory Left last night by becoming president of the Tory Reform Group, the largest One Nation pressure group within the party (James Landale writes).

The former Chancellor will address his broadly pro-European and left-of-centre troops for the first time at a fringe meeting of the group tonight. The decision to take the job signals his intention to re-

main an influential figure at Westminster. The position will inevitably lead him into conflict with the party leadership over a single currency.

Damian Garrido, the group's chairman, said the party could recover only by promoting One Nation Conservatism. "Ken Clarke's support in the grass roots and his reputation as a big hitter in the parliamentary party make him ideally suited to promote this message."

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Hague sets out to become the fisherman's friend

Damian Whitworth followed the Tory leader on a search for support on the waterfront yesterday

THE long, slow trawl for personal and party popularity began for William Hague yesterday with a visit to a fish market. It was not an auspicious start. The market was empty of fish and almost completely devoid of fishermen.

Arriving in Blackpool for his party's conference the Conservative leader lost little time in heading off to Fleetwood — home of fishermen and the Fisherman's Friend lozenge company — for his first photo call. Mr Hague set out into filthy weather. Visibility was poor.

Arriving at the quayside there was, immediately, a sense that all was not as it should be. For their first photo calls of a conference political leaders generally ensure that



BLACKPOOL

they are pictured with lots of people: busy and popular. Tony Blair, last week, was at a packed church service, while his deputy, John Prescott, was seen larking about with jolly race-goers.

Why then, journalists asked themselves yesterday afternoon, were they standing in the drizzle at a deserted fishing port? A few unmanned vessels

were anchored ready for last night's forays but the market had long since packed up for the day. There was not a solitary sprat, nor a sprat catcher, nor a sprat seller, to be seen.

Odd. A man from Conservative Central Office was asked if a recce had been done before this visit. It had. Odder. He explained that Mr Hague was going to meet some fishermen, but no one else could come. He didn't know where the fishermen were. The press wondered why they had been invited. For the photo call, they were told, just what Mr Hague was going to do at a fish market that didn't have fish nor any visible fishermen was intriguing.

Eventually a chap called Kevin Christian emerged. He said he represented the fish producers, but he was scornful of the performance of all parties on the issue of fishing. "Other countries go to Brussels and fight for the industry. Our guys go and get their arses kicked."

Mr Hague swept up in his Rover with Sebastian Coe, one of the party vice chairmen, and David Harris, another former Cornish MP and a champion of fishermen. The port superintendent, Callum Couper, greeted Mr Hague. "I've come to meet the fisher-

men," he said grinning. The press grinned too: "Go on then, try."

The press were made to stand behind a railing while Mr Hague and Mr Couper went for a walk. They walked off along the desolate quayside for 50 yards until they almost disappeared into the gloom and then walked back again. That was it.

Mr Hague didn't stop to chat as he was asked about his popularity and party reform. "I'm here to meet the fisher-

men." Things started to get silly. "What's your favourite type of fish?" Mr Hague. "Any fish caught by British fishermen," he replied. He disappeared into a building where men had been coming and going with great bags of ice. "Ah, at last, I'm going to meet the fishermen." The door was firmly shut. Inside, an aide said, were the fishermen.

It was raining hard but the press stayed put, anxious by now to catch a fisherman. After 25 minutes Mr Hague

emerged. "I had an excellent meeting with representatives of the fishing industry, the second I had in a few weeks. They feel let down by the new Government on quota hopping and I have assured them we will be sticking by them." He said he was not going to make any policy commitment now and hopped in his car. The fishermen, all four of them, eventually emerged.

The press, determined they would not get away, reeled

them in frantically. "He's got the right man in David Harmer," conceded Mark Harmer, secretary of the Fleetwood Fisherman's Association. "I told him the Conservatives should start with a clean sheet. From what I see of Mr Hague, I'm impressed."

As the leader of the Conservative Party drove back through the murk, with the outlook cloudy, he could have reflected that he might, at least, have become the fishermen's friend.

Debts are running close to £8 million, income is dwarfed by expenditure, and corporate donors have abandoned the Conservatives in droves.

The Conservative Party, which moved back into the black just before the election for the first time since 1992, has gone into deficit again with the Royal Bank of Scotland. It has an overdraft of £500,000.

Marks & Spencer, which has given generously to Tory coffers virtually every year for the past 30, is the latest company to scrap its annual donation. Last year the company, whose joint managing director Andrew Stone was made a Labour life peer in the summer, gave £40,000 to John Major's election war chest. The policy will be reviewed next year.

Senior Tories are confident that they can bring the situation under control. Some 50 staff have lost their jobs in the past two weeks, bringing the number down to 100, the lowest in its history. Wealthy donors have loaned the party money.

However, the financial situation is so desperate that staff in Mr Hague's private office are working for virtually nothing. Sebastian Coe, the former Tory MP and Olympic medalist, is working full-time for Mr Hague for a nominal salary. Charles Hendry, a former MP, is also working for a small retainer.

The £1 million "Short money" allocated by the Treasury to fund the official Opposition in Parliament is being used to pay for the research department at Conservative Central Office and Mr Hague's private office.

A Tory official said: "We have instituted a tough wave of economies. We will soon be living within our means. The debts are underwritten. Everyone knows there is a cyclical fall after an election, particularly if we have lost. Our relationship with the Royal Bank of Scotland is good. Mr Micawber would approve of what we are doing."



PETER NICHOLLS

Party's funding crisis getting worse

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the worst financial crises in the history of the Conservative Party is threatening to blow William Hague's faltering comeback off course.

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DRESSING TO KILL A STEREOTYPE

FIION JENKINS will tonight unveil a new look for the Tory party as she makes her conference debut in a daring £2,000 black lace see-through dress. The First Flaneuse of the Tory Party, breaking with her predecessors' traditional power dresses and pearls, will be attend-

ing a dinner in the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool for the party's 240 agents with William Hague at her side. The society designer Neil Cunningham, 29, who made the dress said: "It is an ideal style for a woman like Fiona who has a curvy, Marilyn Monroe figure."

hostile to him and Labour was eclipsed by the SDP. By late 1981, a mere 16 per cent were satisfied with him, and 64 per cent dissatisfied, and his ratings remained almost as bad until he resigned as leader after the 1983 election.

At present, the Tories are on 25 per cent in the MORI poll, with Labour on 39 per cent, while 18 per cent of the public are satisfied with Mr Hague's performance and 46 per cent dissatisfied. This is obviously bad news for the Tory leader, especially as the party's reduced band of supporters are dissatisfied with his performance by a 42 to 31 per cent margin.

But Mr Hague's poor rating can be blamed as much on the Tories' low standing in the public's eyes as on the party's poor performance.

Opposition leaders have often faced criticism when they seem not to be making an impact on a governing party that is riding high.

Mr Hague's real problem is establishing a clear identity with the public. What he needs is a good battle to show that he is a winner — as Neil Kinnock showed when he confronted Militant in 1985 and as Tony Blair showed by rewriting Clause Four of the Labour constitution. Mr Hague should not compromise too much over his party reform proposals. He needs to be seen to be defeating his party critics. It would do wonders for his poll ratings.

PETER RIDDELL

Headline-catching poll is no cause for despair

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

WILLIAM HAGUE should not despair. Conservative leaders have more often than not been unpopular in opposition. It all depends on the standing of the party.

So the headline-catching Gallup poll showing that Mr Hague has a lower rating than Michael Foot after he became Labour leader in November 1980 is less sensational than it appears. In reality, it says much more about the respective standings of Labour then, and the Tories now.

According to MORI polls in *The Times*, when Mr Foot became party leader, Labour was on 50 per cent, well ahead of the Tories on 36 per cent. So with 29 per cent of the public satisfied with his performance then, and 21 per cent dissatisfied, Mr Foot was lagging well behind his party.

Mr Foot's rating declined as the public became more

hostile to him and Labour was eclipsed by the SDP. By late 1981, a mere 16 per cent were satisfied with him, and 64 per cent dissatisfied, and his ratings remained almost as bad until he resigned as leader after the 1983 election.

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Opposition leaders have often faced criticism when they seem not to be making an impact on a governing party that is riding high.

LORD PARKINSON, the Conservative chairman, sided with the Shadow Cabinet old guard yesterday against any moves by William Hague, the party leader, to accept Labour's reforms of the House of Lords.

In a sign of tension in the Tory high command over the issue, Lord Parkinson vowed to oppose any watering down of the party's support for the hereditary principle in the House of Lords. Last month Mr Hague floated the idea that the Conservatives might not oppose Labour's plans to strip hereditary peers of their voting rights, because it would be a unpopular battle the Tories could not win.

But Lord Parkinson insisted that any change of party policy would have to be a collective decision of the Shadow Cabinet, and he made clear his opposition to the idea. "William has not changed the party's policy," he said.

There are different views at the moment, but we will take a collective view and we will rally around it," Lord Parkinson said. But he could not resist slapping his own view. "I think you cannot have tinkering with the Lords. If you're going to reform the Lords, it has to be a major reform.

"If you just start tinkering in a petty way, you make the Lords even less relevant than it is. That's my view."

Mr Hague, in an interview with *The Times*, yesterday reiterated that no decision had been taken on whether to vote against the expected Bill on the matter in 1999. The Shadow Cabinet would decide, he said, when they had seen the Government's proposals. "Parliament certainly needs reform and we are not going to

be last-ditch defenders of every single aspect of our constitution as it is," Mr Hague said.

"But we are not going to be able to react to their proposals before they've made them."

He said that neither he nor Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, were opposed in principle to the reform of the Upper House. They both wanted the reform to "improve the working of Parliament as a whole and that it leaves us with an effective Second Chamber."

Lord Parkinson, having appeared to disclose the prospect of a potentially embarrassing rift, then admitted that hardly anyone had heard of Mr Hague. Asked why only 6 per cent of people surveyed in an opinion poll thought that the Tory leader would make the best Prime Minister, the party chairman replied: "They simply don't know him."

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Computer offers patients online analysis

THE first computerised self-help treatment for psychiatric patients was launched yesterday by Bethlem, the world's oldest hospital for the mentally ill.

The telephone service makes it possible to treat thousands of patients at all times of day or night in their own homes. About four fifths of the 73 patients who underwent initial trials have shown improvement after a few weeks of the free treatment. This makes it at least as successful as face-to-face treatment by a psychiatrist, and many patients say they prefer to talk to a computer about their problems.

Obsessive compulsive disorders are the first for which a computer

Mentally ill can now get psychiatric help without leaving home, writes Ian Murray

program is available. Up to a million people in Britain are estimated to suffer from the condition, which drives them to do things such as continually washing their hands, returning home to make sure their door is locked or waking their children in the middle of the night to be sure they are alive.

People suffering from this type of problem can either ask their doctor for a referral or ring the hospital and ask for the telephone treatment, known as behavioural therapy. Those with other obsessive conditions such as agoraphobia and

claustrophobia can ask for the Fear Fighter programme. Those with general anxiety should apply for Worryt.

On making the initial call the patient is given a PIN number and sent a manual which explains in detail what to do. The manual has a nine-step treatment, listing the different kinds of problem the patient faces, each one with its own code number.

To start the treatment the patient rings a free 0800 number, fips in the identification number and then follows pre-recorded instructions

fed down the line from the hospital by the computer. By tapping in the code numbers from the manual, the patient is given instructions of how to cope with a specific condition.

Each step is monitored and the patient is sent a fax confirming what should be done in addition to the telephone instructions. If problems do arise that cannot be dealt with by the computer, the patient is told to consult a doctor.

The programme sets the patient tasks which help overcome the obsession. Someone who cannot stop themselves going home to

check the door is asked to lock up and stay out for an hour.

It is exactly the same kind of advice as a psychiatrist would give and follows rules which are well-established for treating this condition," Isaac Marks, Professor of Experimental Psychopathology at the Bethlem and Maudsley Hospitals, who pioneered the programme, said.

The computer has an advantage over the psychiatrist in that it doesn't get bored, tired or distracted by something like a row with their partner. It is very systemised so it

does not forget things that a therapist may overlook.

The treatment includes a troubleshooting programme, which enables the patient to ask the computer what is going wrong if there is no improvement. The treatment should take around 3½ months, but the patient can do each of the steps as often as required.

A major benefit of the system is that the number of patients who can be treated is vastly increased.

The programme is being launched to mark the 750th anniversary of the foundation of The Bethlem Hospital, which is based in Beckenham and Denmark Hill, South London.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sixteenth fatality at diving centre

Britain's largest inland diving centre defended its safety record yesterday after the sixteenth fatality in 15 years. Patrick Scanlon, 37, from Leicester, got into difficulties during a recreational dive at the Stoney Cove National Diving Centre, near Hinckley, Leicestershire, on Saturday.

Margaret Baldwin, spokeswoman for the centre, said that some of the fatalities were caused by pre-existing health problems and others by inexperienced divers panicking, making errors or taking risks. She said: "In diving circles it is considered to be very safe, and we do everything to ensure safety. Many thousands of dives are completed safely and enjoyably each year. Diving is a very safety-minded sport."

Lake funeral

The funeral of Carol Park, whose body was found in Coniston Water in Cumbria 21 years after she disappeared, was held in Barrow-in-Furness. Gordon Park, 53, her husband, has been charged with her murder.

Agent bailed

Bernard Michael Carr, 44, of Hartlepool, a former agent of the Labour MP Peter Mandelson, was remanded on unconditional bail until October 27 by magistrates in the town on a charge of gross indecency with a teenager.

Delayed return

Charlotte Gibb, 20, a student badly injured in a shooting in Israel in which her boyfriend Max Hunter was killed, has delayed her return to Durham University. A spokesman said she was not yet well enough to resume her studies.

Tribute thieves

Melanie Sharp and Bethan Sheldon, both 19, were each fined £90 by magistrates in Chester for stealing floral tributes placed outside the town hall in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. They had been drinking.

Trust record

The National Trust's membership has reached 2.5 million. The organisation, one of the country's biggest landowners, attributes the growth to an increasing interest in heritage, boosted by television series such as *Pride and Prejudice*.

Sweet charity

Police at Basingstoke, Hampshire, have been given two £1,000 closed-circuit cameras to protect their backyard by Peter Cadbury, grandson of the founder of the chocolate empire, for the help they gave him after a burglary.

Honest answer to sex survey lies in laptops

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PEOPLE taking part in a sex survey will be asked to give their answers to a computer, in order to get an honest picture of our private lives.

Researchers believe that respondents are more likely to tell the truth about their sex lives – particularly homosexual experiences, or the absence of sex within their marriages – if they do not have to speak to a sociologist with a clipboard. Instead, they will be given the option of pressing keys on a laptop computer.

The survey is being carried out by the same team that scandalised Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister in 1989. When she heard that public money was being spent to uncover Britain's sex secrets, she immediately vetoed the survey. But it went ahead anyway, with the support of the Wellcome Trust.

Now Professor Ann Johnson of University College London and her colleagues plan a repeat survey to see what has changed. "We will be asking many of the same questions, plus some new ones," she says.

"We want to find whether changes in sexual behaviour have taken place since the last survey and to provide data for estimating the prevalence of infection by the Aids virus, HIV, and other sexually-transmitted diseases."

A pilot study of 1,000 men

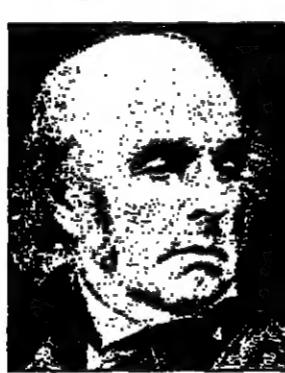
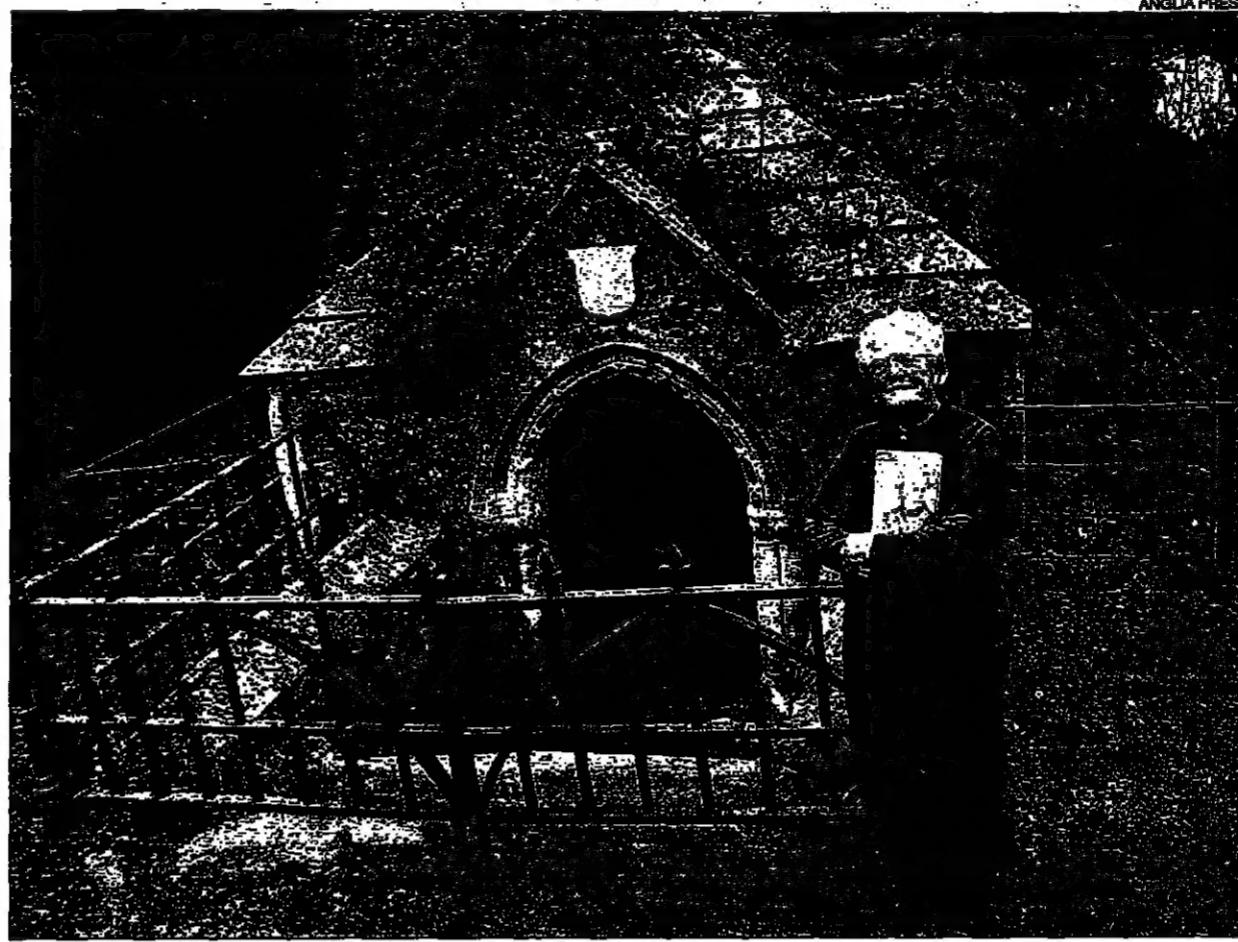
and women between 16 and 45, funded by the Medical Research Council, is about to start. Half the respondents will use the old pen-and-paper method, while the other half will have laptops.

"In the first survey, all questions were either asked face to face, or respondents filled in a booklet which they gave back to the interviewer in a sealed envelope," Professor Johnson says. Experience in America suggests computers will elicit different answers.

"In crime surveys it has been shown to make people more willing to report drug use," she says. "People like using the computer and manage it very easily. It needs no more skill than operating a hole-in-the-wall bank machine."

Once the pilot study is complete, Professor Johnson and her team plan a much broader one. The original survey, held in 1990 and 1991, involved 19,000 interviews. The expanded one will question 10,000 people.

The earlier survey found that sex before marriage was the norm: the median age for first intercourse had declined from 21 in the 1950s to 17; a fifth of those aged 25 to 34 had had ten or more partners; and the proportion of men with a homosexual partner was 1.4 per cent, rising to 8.6 per cent in inner London.



Pauper's grave beckons poet who immortalised Rubaiyat

By MICHAEL HORNELL

THE family mausoleum of the Victorian poet Edward Fitzgerald, whose words inspired troops in the trenches, is in danger of being demolished and his body consigned to a pauper's grave.

The crumbling, creeper-strewn edifice in a country churchyard has severe structural damage and is in need of urgent repair costing at least £14,000. But no trace can be found of descendants to guarantee its upkeep.

First World War troops marched into battle with a slim volume of poetry in their packs which included the most celebrated lines of Fitzgerald's free translation of the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*:

"Here with a loaf of bread beneath the bough,
A flask of wine, a book of Verse — and Thou
Beside me singing in the Wilderness —
And Wilderness is Paradise now."

Fitzgerald's 1859 rendering of the quatrains of the 12th-century Persian astronomer-poet was considered uplifting for the hard-pressed troops.

Suffolk County Council has asked English Heritage for a grant for the Grade II listed Gothic revival mausoleum, beside the church of St Michael and All Angels at Boule, near Woodbridge. It contains lead coffins for Fitzgerald and six relatives. English Heritage

said yesterday that it was considering the application.

But Paula Griffiths, head of its East Anglia team, said: "In spite of strenuous efforts, no trace has been found of any descendants. There is no point to starting any restoration programme if no one is prepared to carry it on."

Vi Short, 83, a churchwarden, said: "The Fitzgeralds were extremely wealthy. Edward's mother was rumoured to be richer than Queen Victoria. She even ate off gold plates."

The Rev Norman Davis, the rector, said: "The paradox is that he would be faced with a pauper's burial with a local authority grant."

Dunblane ribbons will ease suffering

By A STAFF REPORTER

TARTAN ribbons sold in memory of those murdered in the Dunblane massacre could raise £500,000 for suffering children.

Eight of the bereaved parents launched the ribbons at Dunblane Cathedral yesterday. They will be on sale nationwide this month for a suggested donation of £1, with the proceeds going to Save the Children. The ribbons will be distributed through schools in Scotland and across Britain in branches of the Bank of Scotland, Alliance and Leicester, Sainsbury's and other retailers.

The idea was inspired by the memorial service in the cathedral last year for the 16 children and their teacher killed by Thomas Hamilton. Many at the service wore ribbons and Mick North, who lost his daughter, Sophie, 5, said: "I think we all felt it is very important to help other children who are victims of violence and conflict throughout the world."

Six of the bereaved parents, including Dr North, have formed their own local group to help Save the Children. Liz McLean, 37, whose daughter Abigail was murdered, said: "I lost my daughter and I felt that I would really want to help children all over the world and in this country who are suffering from crime and suffering generally."

Joan Baird, head of volunteer support at Save the Children, said: "We are immensely grateful for this thoughtful and generous support."

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From the Conservative Democratic Movement

Some comment on the Endorsement Ballot

In the culture of the Conservative Party abstentions matter. In the context of a party traditionally loyal to a newly appointed leader they are of great significance. Mr Hague has said back me or sack me. If the Captain of a football team said back me or sack me to his players and only two put their hands up in support he would consider himself sacked. Mr Hague cannot know the exact size of the abstention vote. The question is is it likely to be substantial?

Efforts to find out the number of ballot papers issued have been unsuccessful. The figures attributed to senior sources range from 350-450,000. This means that 250,000 ballot papers have possibly been issued and not returned. If only one in three of those reached a bona fide party member then Mr Hague is sacked.

The ballot process is flawed as is any such operation. The question is, was it run as well as it could be under the circumstances? The answer is no. The Electoral Reform Society helped with aspects of the Leadership Election. Why not this one? To undertake such an exercise with no previous experience is almost beyond belief. It was not about money as the ERS have labour saving devices. So what is the explanation? Is it not considered a serious ballot? Was control over the process required? The process used is more flawed than was necessary.

It seems clear that the interpretation of the ballot result most favourable to William Hague is that it is inconclusive. He wanted a clear decision - One is not available.

The best outcome from this situation may be for William Hague to lead the party for the next year. To ballot the party as to how it wants to choose its Leader and then to hold such a Leadership contest within the year.

We can provide the facilities for a National Membership List to hold these ballots independently of Central Office. We believe we can have this up and running and validated to 98% accuracy within 4 months subject to co-operation from all. We await the comments of the Party.

The Conservative Democratic Movement, High Corn Mill, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1NL. Phone 01756 703910. Fax 01756 701629.

Chairman Dr Peter Gregory.

Hug for Blair heralds closer ties with Russia

FROM JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, IN MOSCOW

TONY BLAIR and President Yeltsin yesterday heralded a new era of close relations between Britain and Russia with glowing tributes and a bear hug at the Kremlin.

The Russian President showered Mr Blair with praise, describing him as "young, energetic, very vigorous and thrusting". Mr Blair said that Mr Yeltsin was one of the most "dynamic and capable leaders" in the world. Both leaders were evidently determined to improve relations between the two countries, which cooled during John Major's premiership.

After a one-hour meeting — twice as long as had been planned originally — the two leaders signed a joint agreement to combat organised crime and drug trafficking through sharing intelligence.

President Yeltsin emphasised the importance of the agreement relating to tackling Russia's mafia. "I love young, clever, energetic people," said Mr Yeltsin. "He is the youngest British Prime Minister in many years, the most energetic, thrusting politician, who

has enormous support in the new era of close relations between Britain and Russia with glowing tributes and a bear hug at the Kremlin."

The Russian leader also surprised some of those in Mr Blair's entourage by quoting chunks of the Prime Minister's conference speech last week in Brighton over lunch.

"The personal friendship is certainly growing. Of course,

age is something of a difference between us, but we are meeting here and we intend to go on meeting more often and informally," President Yeltsin said. "Age is something of a difference between us, but in terms of spirit and energy I wouldn't say I am 'lagging behind'."

A slightly embarrassed Mr Blair returned the compliment, expressing his personal admiration for what Mr Yeltsin had achieved for Russia and the world. "It's been an extraordinary story of progress and reform, and could not possibly have been carried out without his personal character and drive," said Mr Blair. "Whatever the difference in age, I know I am in the presence of one of the most

dynamic and capable leaders the world has produced in recent times."

Under the security deal,

British information officers will be trained in Russia and Russian officers will visit London. Police in both countries will co-operate in fighting international terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering and other serious crime.

Mi6 is particularly concerned about drug trafficking and prostitution, which are increasingly prevalent in European capitals and are organised by the Russian mafia. British sources say that this is destabilising Russia and would present a danger if it were allowed to infiltrate Britain. During the meeting, President Yeltsin made clear his own determination to crack down on the mafia.

Mr Blair used the meeting to promote closer business and trade links. He breakfasted with British businessmen and promised an extra £500 million in export credit. He also pressed for a multi-billion pound deal for British Petroleum to explore oilfields

in Russia. Later the Prime Minister showed British support for Russia's early inclusion in the club of world leaders by unveiling a logo for the Group of Eight Industrial Nations, which includes Rus-

sia. Mr Blair showed Mr Yeltsin the proposed G8 logo for next May's summit in Birmingham.

Russia has long wanted to

join the Group of Seven,

linking the United States,

Britain, Germany, France, Japan, Italy and Canada, and making it a G8. As a sign of support to President Yeltsin and his reforms, Russia has been included in political debates at recent meetings but

has not taken part in economic discussions. Mr Blair said that he welcomed Russia "next year to participate in the G8". He also told reporters he was optimistic that Russia could soon join the World Trade

Organisation. During a tour of the city, the Prime Minister visited a new shopping centre in Manezh Square, which will contain Mothercare and Next shops when it opens for business next month.

President Yeltsin embracing Tony Blair before their Kremlin meeting yesterday during the Prime Minister's one-day visit to Moscow

Photo: Grigori Dukor / Reuters

Bubbly soap star bursts on to stage in three short takes

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

TONY BLAIR not only brought drama to his visit by appearing in a radio soap opera but also proved he could be a star according to the programme's director.

In a plot destined to grab audience attention, he stops his motorcade and helps an unemployed seamstress to pick up apples she has dropped, while gently lecturing her about the importance of education. He then sends her home in an official car.

Mr Blair clearly enjoyed his fleeting appearance in Gorki 7, Podetzi 4 (House Seven, Entrance Four). The scene was recorded, somewhat incongruously, under a portable office on stilts in the British Embassy compound opposite the Kremlin.

"It is important," he told reporters afterwards. "We have got a tremendous opportunity here in Russia. There is a lot of interest in Britain, there is a lot of confidence in Britain abroad, and there is a lot happening in Russia.

"If we can use our position to help British trade, British

investment and Britain's standing in the world, then great," he said. "It takes starring in a soap opera, then I'm delighted."

It took one rehearsal and two takes because of technical problems to record the scene for the series, which is produced with BBC help. The episode will be broadcast on Russia's Echo Moskva station today.

Slightly straining credibility, Mr Blair needed no interpreter to understand what Varya, the seamstress, was telling him, although the interpreter standing by translated his remarks.

Mr Blair told Varya they had to do more for their young people, because so many of them had no work.

The director, Mikhail Rogovoi, praised Mr Blair and said he could always turn his hand to drama.

The last take was absolutely perfect, because the Prime Minister did everything we wanted," he said. "A clever man can be an actor — or do any work he wants to do."

APPLES AND CORE POLICIES

Scene 3: Outside street. Prime Minister, interpreter, policeman, Varya. Background noise of street. Policeman: Where are you going? Lady with the bag!

Varya: But this is a pedestrian crossing! Your traffic lights have probably broken.

Policeman: Back on the pavement, I said!

Varya: Here, stop pulling my bag! Ah, now look what you've done. The handle's broken! My apples!

Policeman: Never mind your apples?

Varya: I won't be a minute. I'll just pick these up.

Prime Minister: (approaching) Are you all right? Varya: (picking up apples) No, no, don't trouble yourself.

Policeman: (going off) You can sort this out on your own.

PM: Have you picked up all your apples?

Varya: Mr Blair! Very nice to meet you. And I am Varya Vasilieva. Take some of my apples. They're very good. No chemicals in them, straight from our orchard in Yeltsin.

PM: (surprised) Aren't there any apples in Moscow?

Varya: Of course there are! It's just a bit expensive.

PM: I see. Do you find it quite difficult to get by?

Varya: Me? No. Not at all.

PM: How are you coping with all the changes?

Varya: We live very well. We have everything we want. We've got a boy and a girl. Do you have a family?

PM: I have three children.

Varya: We should do more for our children.

PM: I agree. We've got to do more for our young people.

PM: In my country we've said the priorities are: Education, education, education. It should be the same everywhere.

Varya: It would be good if everyone thought like that. I'm going to be a grandmother soon, and I can't imagine how we are going to live.

PM: A grandmother? Congratulations!

Varya: Olga's due in March. What are you doing in Moscow?

PM: I'm here on business to meet some of your political leaders. I'm just on my way to a meeting now.

Varya: I won't hold you up then.

PM: Your bag's broken. Why don't we drive you home?

Varya: (embarrassed) Oh no, really I couldn't. I'll manage.

PM: It's no trouble at all. Where do you want to go?

Varya: House Seven, Entrance Four (laughing).



British PoW papers handed back

BY JILL SHERMAN

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday formally handed Tony Blair copies of wartime diaries and documents relating to British prisoners of war which had been held in a Moscow vault for 50 years.

The papers, which include personal writings and photographs lost during the war, were assembled by the Germans and taken to Moscow by the Soviet Army after the capture of Berlin. Mr Yeltsin's decision will allow surviving servicemen and their families access to emotional and harrowing accounts of life as a prisoner during the Second World War.

Britain has been negotiating for the release of the archive material for more than three years. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin

gave Mr Blair the first instalment of copies of the diaries, but promised that arrangements would be made for the originals to be handed over once it had been agreed legally.

Accepting the copies yester-

day, Mr Blair said that it was a "wonderful gesture". He added: "This is a very emotional moment for many of our citizens."

One of the diaries handed to Mr Blair concerned a young British officer, Michael Duncan, who was captured in 1940

and escaped the year after. Lieutenant Duncan, an officer in the Oxford & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, came from the Home Counties; he died more than 20 years ago.

He describes the worst

period of his captivity when he

had nothing to do ... our food ration is one loaf to five days, which works out at four medium slices per day. That and a pint of very watery soup per day and five or six potatoes, very old and usually very bad and a mug of coffee.

"According to the doctor, the diet is enough to keep us alive, provided we take no violent exercise. This, anyway, is out of the question as two or three times round the 200-yard field is about all the exercise we can manage in a day. By the time you have done that and climbed upstairs to your room you feel as if you have climbed a mountain." The lieutenant adds: "If only we had books and papers ... as it is, we have to kill time between meals somehow, so we play endless games of cards and become cabbages."

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Why must 82% of business travellers keep on missing important family events?

BY JILL SHERMAN

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW COOPER

STYLING BY CLARE HARRIS

HAIR AND MAKE-UP BY CLARE HARRIS

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW COOPER

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New attack on Clinton over 'lost' sound in fund video

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LEADING Republican opponents, accusing the White House of obstructing justice and claiming to have discovered a "smoking gun", yesterday leapt on the belated release of videos detailing President Clinton's controversial coffee mornings.

In tapes that include separate footage shot by a White House camera team at 44 of the coffee meetings in 1995 and 1996, Mr Clinton is seen greeting visitors but is neither observed nor heard asking for contributions to his re-election campaign. An excerpt from one tape, however, shows the President shaking hands with John Huang, the fundraiser at the heart of the controversy over irregular contributions to the Democratic campaign. It is the only portion on which

there is no sound, prompting immediate speculation of a Watergate-style cover-up.

The tapes, which were soon made available to television stations throughout America, provided a comprehensive public portrait of Mr Clinton mingling with wealthy donors. Like the earlier revelation of his scrawled approval for the use of the Lincoln Bedroom and other White House attractions by donors, the tapes brought a new resonance and momentum to the complex and torpid inquiry that has dominated political activity in the American capital.

They were made public as

Harold Ickes, the dismissed former White House Deputy Chief of Staff and the Administration's self-proclaimed "di-

rector of sanitation" takes the stand to give long-awaited and perhaps critical testimony in the Senate hearings. Republicans have seized on the opportunity to question why, eight months after all documents had been subpoenaed by the Justice Department, the tapes were suddenly made public just hours after Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, had effectively exonerated Mr Clinton of any irregular fundraising activities at the White House. They called for Ms

Reno to reconsider her decision not to request a special prosecutor for the President.

"At this point, with the White House not turning over evidence again and again, I think you really may have crossed the line of obstruction of justice," said Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican senator.

"First they don't give us

materials while we're question-

witnesses. And now the tapes are turned over. If they're innocent recordings,

why didn't we have them a long time ago?"

The White House claims the late discovery of the tapes was an honest mistake. Made by the White House Communications Agency, a secretive Pentagon unit, the tapes were found by chance, according to senior aides. An initial search of the agency's database, they claim, had employed only the names of individuals but a staff member had made a later check and came across the word "coffee". One scene

from December 1995 showed Don Fowler, the Democratic National Committee chairman, being offered five cheques by an unidentified person. But Mr Fowler appears to decline, saying: "I'm sorry... as soon as this thing is over, I'll call you and we'll get it set up."

The Huang segment, however, is the one that immediately caused the greatest stir. "We may have a Mary Rose Woods problem here," said one Senate investigator, al-

luding to President Nixon's secretary who claimed she was responsible for an 18-minute gap on his Watergate tapes.

This is a missing 60 seconds."

At issue is whether Mr Clinton broke election law by soliciting funds on federal property, during the events held mainly in the Map Room but also in the Oval Office and the Roosevelt Room.

The tapes may reveal evidence of illegal behaviour by Mr Clinton or may simply reinforce the White House

assertion that they were simply "listening sessions".

No matter what the content, however, they have given Republicans an easy means to resurrect questions about the President's personal involvement and a visible barb with which to attack Ms Reno's decision to pursue a 60-day inquiry against Al Gore, the Vice-President, while main-

taining that Mr Clinton need

no further investigation.

Leading article, page 21



A video showing President Clinton at one of 44 White House coffee mornings in 1995 and 1996, attended by fundraisers and donors to his re-election campaign.

Nobel for Alzheimer's find

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THIS year's Nobel Prize for medicine has been won by an American biochemist hailed for discovering "an entirely new genre of disease-causing agents" — including those responsible for BSE or "mad cow" disease.

The \$1 million (£625,000) prize went to Professor Stanley Prusiner of the University of California at San Francisco for his work on potentially deadly proteins known as prions, thought to be the cause of brain-wasting illnesses in humans as well as animals, and a key to understanding Alzheimer's disease.

Professor Prusiner was credited by Sweden's Karolins-

ka Institute, which awards the prize, with isolating prions and demonstrating how they can be transformed from benign proteins present in every brain to cell-destroying agents that leave brain tissue dead.

Inspired by the death of a patient from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, whose symptoms include severe dementia, Professor Prusiner discovered prions, and found that by folding on themselves they can perform a "Jekyll and Hyde" switch. Twenty people, most of them British, died last year of a rare version of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease thought to have been transmitted from cows infected with BSE.



Prusiner: inspired by the death of a patient

WORLD IN BRIEF

Lawyers seek \$2.8bn slice of tobacco win

New York: An increasingly bitter tussle is being fought between the State of Florida and its lawyers who are demanding a quarter of the \$1.3 billion (£713 million) it won from the tobacco industry in August (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Their pre-trial contract apportioned a 25 per cent fee package if Florida won its suit. But the settlement, over compensation for spending on the treatment of smoking-related diseases, was made out-of-court. It calls for "reasonable attorneys' fees" to be paid by the tobacco industry, with the sum to be determined by independent arbitrators. Peter Antonacci, Florida's Deputy Attorney-General has told the lawyers that the 25 per cent slice of an out-of-court settlement was "a little unreasonable". However, five of the 11 lawyers involved have filed lawsuits against the first instalment of \$750 million paid by the tobacco industry.

Taleban bans animal pictures

Kabul: The Taleban religious army has ordered all pictures of people and animals destroyed, declaring them offensive to Islam. Afghan authorities said. Until now the Taleban had forbidden the photographing of people but did not outlaw pictures of non-Muslims. This was also the first time the Taleban edits on photography included animals.

Few Afghans have cameras or pictures of their ancestors. While few stores in Kabul have carried pictures of people since the Taleban takeover one year ago, fitness centres have displayed pictures of bodybuilders. It was not immediately known what the punishment would be, but minor offences usually carry a beating. (AP)

Pro-Hitler general dies at 85

Bon: A former Nazi general, who helped to change the course of history by foiling the 1944 coup attempt against Hitler in Berlin, has died in Spain aged 85, the German Foreign Office confirmed (Deborah Collet writes). Otto Ernst Remer, right, who fled Germany in 1994 after being convicted of inciting racial hatred and publicly denying the deaths of Jews in the concentration camps settled in Andalucia and was lately confined to a wheel-chair.

Obituary, page 23

British head for Rockefeller

New York: A Birmingham-born academic has been named as the next president of the Rockefeller Foundation, one of the largest philanthropic organisations in the world (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Gordon Conway, 59, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex in Brighton, will be the first non-American to head the New York-based foundation, set up in 1913 by John D. Rockefeller. He will take up his post in April next year. An agricultural ecologist, Professor Conway said he was "immensely honoured to be working for a unique global foundation". Last year alone it disbursed grants and fellowships worth more than \$107 million (£668,000).

Heiress who defied Nazis dies

Paris: Mary Jayne Gold, an American socialite who helped the painters Marc Chagall, Max Ernst and about 2,000 Jews and anti-Nazis to escape from France during the Second World War, has died aged 88 near St Tropez. Ms Gold, who used some of her fortune to finance the flight of artists and intellectuals, had suffered from pancreatic cancer. Thor Gold, her great-nephew, said in Los Angeles, The Chicago heiress recorded her times in the book *Crossroads Marseilles* 1940, published in 1980. She never married and had no children. (AP)

China punishes former chief

Beijing: Zhao Ziyang, the disgraced Chinese Communist Party chief, left, has been barred from receiving visitors as punishment for writing to the party leadership last month condemning the use of force to suppress the Tiananmen student demonstrations of 1989, Chinese sources said. A weekly golf game offering him an occasional escape from virtual house arrest has also been cancelled. His letter angered President Jiang Zemin, the sources said. (Reuters)

Court adjourns Basque trial

Madrid: The trial on terrorism charges of all 23 members of the leadership of Herri Batasuna, the Basque separatist party, started in the Spanish Supreme Court yesterday (Giles Tremlett writes). Demonstrators joined at the politicians, who face charges of collaborating with the Eta terror group. Herri Batasuna asked that a judge be changed, forcing an adjournment. The request was rejected and the trial will restart on Monday.

Bad weather delays homecoming for astronaut Foale

BY TOM RHODES

MICHAEL FOALE, the British-born astronaut whose space mission was plagued by problems on Mir, experienced another hitch as the shuttle returning him to Earth was kept in orbit waiting for a chance to land last night.

At 21.00 BST the US space shuttle, had been scheduled to arrive at the Kennedy Space Centre the previous evening, but its seven-member crew, including Dr Foale, 49, who is returning after more than four months on the beleaguered Mir space station, was forced to remain in space due to poor weather conditions.

Thick cloud over Cape Canaveral, combined with darkness on Sunday night, forced NASA to abandon re-entry at the last minute. Last night it was still not certain whether the shuttle would land in Florida or at an alternative runway at Edwards air force base in California.

The delay brought added tension for Rhonda Foale, the astronaut's wife, and their two small children, Jemma and Ian, who have spent the last months watching the Mir mission's long catalogue of problems.

El Korolyov, Russia: A cargo craft failed to uncouple itself from Mir yesterday and a Russian space official said it was unlikely another supply craft, due to reach Mir today, would be able to dock on time. (Reuters)

Belgrade
fascist

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Croat suspects taken to face war trial

By TOM WALKER

TEN Bosnian Croat war-crimes suspects were yesterday flown by a Dutch military transport plane to The Hague, after assurances that their trials would begin within five months.

Their departure brings the ailing Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian President, and his Zagreb Government into line with Western policy. International pressure will increase on Belgrade and Slobodan Milosevic to push Bosnian Serb war criminals — including the two top names on The Hague's list, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladić — in the same direction.

The Serbs are the only party among Bosnia's former warring factions not in compliance with the International Criminal Tribunal.

The most wanted man on yesterday's C130 Hercules was Dario Kordic, charged by The Hague as responsible for some of central Bosnia's worst atrocities, committed during the bloody fallout of former Muslim and Croat neighbours in the Lasva Valley in 1992 and 1993.

The former journalist said in an emotional farewell to friends and government officials at Split airport that the group left "with a clear conscience before God and the Croatian people".

Mr Kordic achieved notoriety in April 1993 when a British colonel in the then United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia helped to uncover a grisly massacre of Muslims in the village of Ahmici. A local Bosnian Croat Army (HVO) roadblock attempted to stop Colonel Bob Stewart and his patrol searching the village where they later uncovered 104 bodies, many trapped and burnt in their cells.

"I don't need the permission of the bloody HVO. I'm the United Nations," Colonel Stewart stormed in an incident broadcast around the world.

Mr Kordic, who labelled central Bosnia's Muslims as rogue Croats of Islamic faith, was believed to have been in charge of the HVO's cleansing activities in the area.

Israeli agents freed as Gaza greets sheikh

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL last night vowed to continue covert missions against terrorists in third countries after two Mossad agents, who bungled an attempt to assassinate a Hamas leader in Jordan, were returned by helicopter as part of a swap deal negotiated with King Hussein.

The two agents were whisked away from an undisclosed Israeli airfield for a debriefing about the worst botched operation in Mossad's history. 22 more Arab prisoners were released from Israeli jails. Separately, the founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who was freed last week, returned in triumph to the Gaza Strip, where he vowed to continue the struggle against Israeli occupation.

After a wave of bitter criticism of the failed mission by Israel's left-wing Opposition, and repeated demands for the resignation of Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Prime Minister, and Daud Yatom, the head of Mossad, Avraham Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister, said similar covert missions would continue.

"I think we, the Cabinet ministers, should think about that in the future, find out a way to destroy these people who want to use terrorism in Mr Kahalani admitted that

he would have preferred the influential sheikh to have remained in Jordan. But he acknowledged that his return to Gaza was part of the cost of securing the freedom of the two Mossad agents arrested carrying forged and invalid Canadian passports.

At a chaotic news conference in Amman before being taken from his wheelchair and put on a stretcher for the half-hour flight to Gaza, the founder of Hamas dismissed reports that Hamas had offered a ten-year ceasefire to Israel last month in exchange for being included in the peace negotiations.

"There will be no halt to armed operations until the end of the occupation," the charismatic but ailing leader said in a barely audible whisper. His remarks were then shouted aloud by an aide.

Notably absent from the Gaza celebrations was Mr Arafat, the Palestinian Authority's President, whose primacy among Palestinians has been badly dented. He was involved in talks surrounding yesterday's formal reopening of Israel-Palestinian discussions after a gap of six months. The arrival of the US special envoy, Dennis Ross, was overshadowed by other events.



A jubilant Sheikh Yassin, founder of Hamas, prepares to return to Gaza yesterday

Belgrade averts 'fascist' victory

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

WESTERN diplomats say political disaster in Serbia has been avoided by a hair's breadth as a result of the failure of Vojislav Seselj, the extreme nationalist, to gain victory in Sunday's presidential run-off. The poll was invalid because only 49 per cent of voters turned out.

In an election of spectacularly Balkan dimensions, independent observers claimed that desperate Socialists of President Milosevic of Yugoslavia stuffed ballot boxes to revive the flagging fortunes of Zoran Illic, their candidate. But once it became clear that Mr Seselj was ahead, the boxes were rapidly unstuffed to keep the vote beneath the 50 per cent needed for validity.

Mr Seselj is the one Belgrade politician who still espouses the politics of war. He believes in a greater Serbia comprising most of Bosnia and half of Croatia, and the tearing up of the Dayton

peace accord. A European diplomat described him as a Frankenstein monster nurtured by Mr Milosevic, who had now become stronger than his creator thanks to "socio-economic conditions like those in Weimar Germany".

But yesterday a beaming Mr Seselj was basking in the glory of his unexpected success, although not as jubilantly as in the early hours of the morning, when it had appeared that he and his Radical Party had pulled off the impossible. "We were short by just 1 per cent," he told the independent Radio Index.

"But there is no reason not to be satisfied. In repeated elections the results of the Radicals will be even better."

Robert Gelbard, President Clinton's special envoy to Bosnia, in Belgrade for talks with Mr Milosevic, yesterday described Mr Seselj as "a fascist we couldn't work with".

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Queen to discover a changed Pakistan

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN ISLAMABAD

THE Queen and Duke of Edinburgh arrive in Islamabad today at the start of a two-week state visit to Pakistan and India. The itinerary takes the monarch into a world she will hardly recognise from her last visit to the sub-continent in 1983.

Many royal watchers in this poorest part of Asia want to know whether the Queen will change style and try some of the spontaneous gestures that made Diana, Princess of Wales so popular on her visits to the region — except among conservative mullahs in Lahore, who demanded that she should be flogged for walking into a mosque bare-armed.

South Asia is sensitive to the importance of this first foreign trip by the Queen since the death of the Princess, and both countries are striving to erase any trace of controversy. Pakistan, which the Queen last visited in 1961, is determined to keep its lunatic fringes in check and security will be massive, especially in Karachi, the commercial capital and something of an urban war zone.

The Queen has already achieved one act of temporary reconciliation by getting an agreement from Benazir Bhutto, the former Pakistani Prime Minister, to join the company of political rivals she personally despises in order to participate in formal ceremonies.

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Ex-aide at Pentagon accused of spying

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

A FORMER Pentagon lawyer and two other people have been arrested on charges of spying for East Germany during the Cold War, the Justice Department said yesterday.

The three were due to appear before a federal court in Virginia on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage during the 1970s and 1980s.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested them on Saturday "in the Washington area" after two handed classified documents to FBI agents who posed as Russian and South African intelligence officers.

The case comes in the wake of several spy scandals, many involving senior government employees, which have shaken the intelligence agencies and defence and security departments. Intelligence officers blame the end of the Cold War, which has exposed some longstanding cases, while increasing the financial rewards of espionage.

According to the FBI, one of the three arrested, Theresa Squillacote, 39, worked as a senior staff lawyer in the office of a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. Her husband, Kurt Alan Stand, 42, works for a union representing food and hotel workers. The third, James Michael Clark, 49, is a Virginia-based private investigator. Mr Stand and Ms



Peggy Ann Garner, left, in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, embodies the seriousness of yesterday's girls; Alicia Silverstone, right, today's self-infatuation in *Clueless*

Body before mind for naughty Nineties girls

Tunku Varadarajan on a new view of teen priorities

MOST adolescent American girls now suffer from "bad body fever", assessing their personal worth almost entirely in terms of the shape of their bodies, the author of a new book published in New York has argued.

Recent studies show that, by the age of 13, more than half of all American girls are unhappy with their bodies. By 17, that figure rockets up to 78 per cent.

According to Joan Jacobs Brumberg, a professor of history at Cornell University and the author of *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*, this deep dissatisfaction has sparked important philosophical changes in young girls.

Her most compelling observation is

that the teenage definition of "goodness" and the way in which girls perceive it has altered profoundly over the past 100 years. Comparing adolescent female diary entries from the 1890s with those from the 1990s,

Dr Brumberg notes how young girls a century ago saw goodness largely in terms of character. A typical entry from 1890 says: "Resolved think before speaking. To work seriously. To be self-restrained in conversations and actions. Not to let my thoughts wander. To be dignified. Interest myself more in others."

Girls today see goodness largely in terms of the body, the figure and physical image. This is a diary entry from 1990, by a *fin de siècle* American

Every girl: "I will try to make myself better in any way I possibly can. I will lose weight, get new lenses, already got new haircut, good make-up, new clothes and accessories."

Dr Brumberg argues that the whalebone corsets of the Victorian age — restrictive, uncomfortable and unnatural — have been replaced today by corsets of the mind. A "historical process", she says, has forced women to exchange "external controls of the body for internal controls". These historical processes include such factors as better nutrition and a decrease in infectious diseases, causing the average age of menarche — a girl's first period — to fall to just over 12 in the mid-19th

century, girls commonly started to menstruate at 15 or 16.

As Dr Brumberg points out, an American girl in today's "post-virginal age" is likely to be sexually active before the age at which her great-great-grandmother had even begun to menstruate. Yet this physical "speeding up" has not been matched by an acceleration in psychological development, leaving adolescent girls totally exposed to "manipulation" by "the consumer culture".

□ *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*, by Joan Jacobs Brumberg (Random House, New York, \$25).

Leading article, page 21

Clinton reveals credentials for squeaky green legacy



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

In the kind of coincidence which is the stuff of political dreams, Washington yesterday scorched in an Indian summer while President Clinton made his plea for action to stop the world getting even warmer. Speaking at a conference on climate change, in his old university in Georgetown, the President joked about "the hottest October day in years" as he pledged that the United States "must be prepared to commit to realistic and binding goals" on curbing pollution.

It is rare these days to see the President make a false step politically, so assured has he become in straddling both parties in Congress, and riding out the challenges of the assorted Paula Joneses and Janet Reno's laying siege to the White House gates. But Mr Clinton's sudden enthusiasm for "doing something about global warming" may prove that mistake.

Last week, he invited 100 television weather forecasters to the White House lawns for an impromptu lecture on the peril, urging them to spread the message through their channels. Asked where this passion has sprung from, his bemused aides say that the President is "thinking legacy": in the year or so before he is dubbed a lame duck, he is dreaming of ways he can clinch a place in the history books. He has seized on plans for a new international treaty on global warming, to be signed in Japan in December, as a perfect vehicle.

His enthusiasm even appears to eclipse that of Al Gore.

Indonesia clears the air

Jakarta: Indonesia, attempting to answer growing criticism over the layer of smoke caused by hundreds of forest fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan provinces, promised to ensure that the situation would not recur. Sarwono Kusumahadji, the Environment Minister, said most of the fires had been started by plantation companies



President Clinton listening to a speaker yesterday at a university conference on climate change

Japan attacked over plan to cut greenhouse gases

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE proposal for cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 5 per cent from 1990 levels provoked ridicule yesterday from environmentalists, with some challenging Japan's suitability to host this year's conference on climate change.

With less than two months to go before the Kyoto conference, a row with the European Union loomed over a Japanese plan that would allow countries to evade even a lenient target.

Announcing Tokyo's proposal, Komei Murakami, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, said the EU proposal for a 15 per cent reduction of the emission of three greenhouse gases by 2010 was "unfair".

Under the Japanese plan, industrialised countries would be required in principle to cut their emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide by an average 5 per cent relative to 1990 during 2008 to 2012. But developing countries would be free to set their own reduction goal on the basis of gross domestic product, population growth and per capita gas emissions.

According to this formula, a country such as Japan — with a high GDP and a good energy-saving record — would be allowed to set a much lower target.

Mr Murakami said Japan would aim to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 2.5 per cent from the 1990 level, requiring the building of 20 nuclear plants to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. But government officials conceded

Moi bars Leakey's party from poll in Kenya

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

A DECISION by the Kenyan Government not to register Safina, the opposition party co-founded by Richard Leakey, the palaeontologist and conservationist, has been called "racism" by its leaders.

"President Moi has been practising racism," Paul Muite, a Safina leader, said yesterday. "It is not acceptable that Richard Leakey should have to step down for Safina to be registered."

Safina (Noah's Ark in Swahili) has been a thorn in the side of President Moi and his ruling KANU party since it was founded by Dr Leakey and Mr Muite in 1995. The movement declared war on corruption, lawlessness and failing standards in public life. Its leaders claim it is supported by millions of Kenyans eager for change in elections due before the end of the year.

The Kenyan decision was described as "worrying and depressing" by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, who ends a short visit to Kenya this morning. "The Kenyan Government knows full well there has been a change [in Britain's aid policy]. We'll be reviewing our country strategy on Kenya".

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Deal the Tories never honoured

Former Tory party treasurer turned Referendum Party supporter, Lord McAlpine, on how Sir James Goldsmith thought he had a deal over Europe

James Goldsmith described the strategy which lay behind the Referendum Party (RP) thus: "I knew that if I charged like a bull, something would have to happen." In the event, he was right: things did happen. As a direct consequence of Goldsmith's intervention in British politics, the Conservatives, closely followed by Labour, offered a referendum before joining the single currency. Both parties also ruled out joining a federal Europe. These changes in policy are directly attributable to Goldsmith's bull charging around in the politicians' China shop.

Had James Goldsmith been a less scrupulous man, perhaps he could have achieved even more, the prize being a proper referendum on the substance of Britain's relationship with Europe. In fact, for a while, Goldsmith thought he was close to achieving just that, and, at a key moment, in the

"Major greeted Goldsmith very warmly, calling him 'Jimmy' even though they had only met once before"

three-year history of the RP, it seemed there might be no need to plough more than 600 RP candidates against the main parties at the general election. Goldsmith believed he had obtained a full referendum because he believed the word of one man: John Major.

On October 16, 1995, James Goldsmith and John Major met face to face, for only the second time in their lives. The first occasion had been at a lunch at Downing Street shortly after Major became Prime Minister. The country was in the grip of the Gulf War and Jacob Rothschild had organised an opportunity for Goldsmith and a small number of others to exchange views with the Prime Minister on the geopolitics of the situation. Goldsmith, however, had not been impressed by the new Conservative leader. While some of the most penetrating minds in Britain discussed the war, Major was heard pronouncing on social security and benefit policy. He was, believed Goldsmith, quite clearly out of his depth.

The scene of Goldsmith's second meeting with Major, several years later, was very different. The occasion was Margaret Thatcher's 70th birthday and a special dinner party was held at Claridge's. All her old friends and most loyal supporters were present, including Goldsmith. The Queen attended, as did the Prime Minister, John Major. Just before the guests went to dine, Goldsmith and Major came face to face among the throng. Curiously, Major greeted Goldsmith very warmly, calling him "Jimmy", although they had met only once before.

Goldsmith greeted the Prime Minister politely and they had a short conversation, during which Major gave an intriguing insight into his thinking, at least as far as formulating European policy was concerned. "Jimmy," he said, "you know, if you were to ask 50 of my backbenchers where I stand on Europe, 25 would say I was a federalist and 25 would say I was a Eurosceptic."

Major said this with an obvious look of pride, as if managing recalcitrant backbenchers was the supreme responsibility of Britain's most

senior statesman. Goldsmith's reply was: "But do you know where you stand?"

That evening, Goldsmith and Major had little time to talk and no time together in private. So they agreed, in principle, that they should meet soon. Major issued the invitation and Goldsmith accepted. Some time over the next few days they did meet, almost certainly on the morning of October 20 or the afternoon of October 19, 1995. This was the most secret of meetings, and it was the first time that Major tried to grip the threat posed by the Referendum Party.

There was, at that time, no overt grassroots campaigning, just a methodical drive to recruit the party's 600 candidates, several hundred election agents and, by October 1996, more than 50,000 registered supporters (this figure grew to 230,000 by the time of the general election). Nor had there, until then, been any advertising apart from the RP's "statement of aims" in all the national newspapers.

So when Major and Goldsmith sat down to talk in late October 1995, the Referendum Party had only just begun to flex its muscles — muscles which, in the 1997 election, are generally accepted to have pushed more than 40 Tory MPs out of the Commons.

At this meeting, a very clear understanding developed between Major and Goldsmith. Major told Goldsmith that he, too, wanted a full referendum on Europe, and that he was trying to achieve one despite the opposition within his party.

He said that Clarke and Heseltine were the prime opponents of a referendum. John Major then asked Goldsmith to help him by holding back his campaign, at least until Christmas, to allow him some time to work on his party colleagues. Goldsmith, a man

Sir James Goldsmith on the campaign trail, Roehampton, April 1997

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDRE CAMARA



Sir James with Lord McAlpine of West Green at the Referendum Party conference in 1996. Right: McAlpine claims that John Major failed to keep his side of the referendum bargain

orised" friends of John Major were in the habit of offering peerages to industrialists, newspaper editors and, it seems, to all and sundry.

On the telephone Major spoke lucidly and persuasively, once again explaining his precarious position. He asserted that he would offer a full referendum on Europe, and it would be very soon, but to succeed he needed Goldsmith's co-operation. His argument went as follows: if he were seen to be capitulating under pressure from Goldsmith, it would be impossible to push the referendum policy past his divided and quarrelling backbenchers. So would Goldsmith hold off a while longer? Once again, Gold-

smith readily agreed. He had never sought to become a politician and had no personal ambition to fulfil in the political sphere. Quite simply, he wanted a full referendum before, or at the same time as, the election. And if the silence of the Referendum Party helped John Major into a position to deliver that and win the election, James Goldsmith was quite prepared to have his party keep that silence and help John Major in the subsequent election campaign.

So, for the second time, the RP delayed the start of its campaign. Ads were postponed, millions of campaign leaflets were held back and, most difficult of all, the growing numbers of prospective candidates and party workers were deliberately restrained from firing the first salvos. The word in the ranks was: when are we going to start? This delicate situation continued for some weeks more. Still there was total silence from the Conservatives about a full referendum. The situation was becoming perplexing and suspicious about John Major's intentions began to grow. Then, on March 10, word reached us from within Major's camp that there

would be a sting in the tail of this apparent volte-face.

The word was that, instead of offering a full referendum on Britain's relationship with Europe, Major was going to offer a much more limited plebiscite on the single currency. In this way, of course, he would neatly avoid reopening any discussion of the Maastricht treaty, which he had negotiated and had hailed as a personal triumph, and of Britain's growing political enslavement to the Brussels bureaucrats. At the same time, he could openly claim that the Conservative Party was the "referendum party". In short, Major's move would undermine the Referendum Party while offering something, but not much, to the Eurosceptics in his own party.

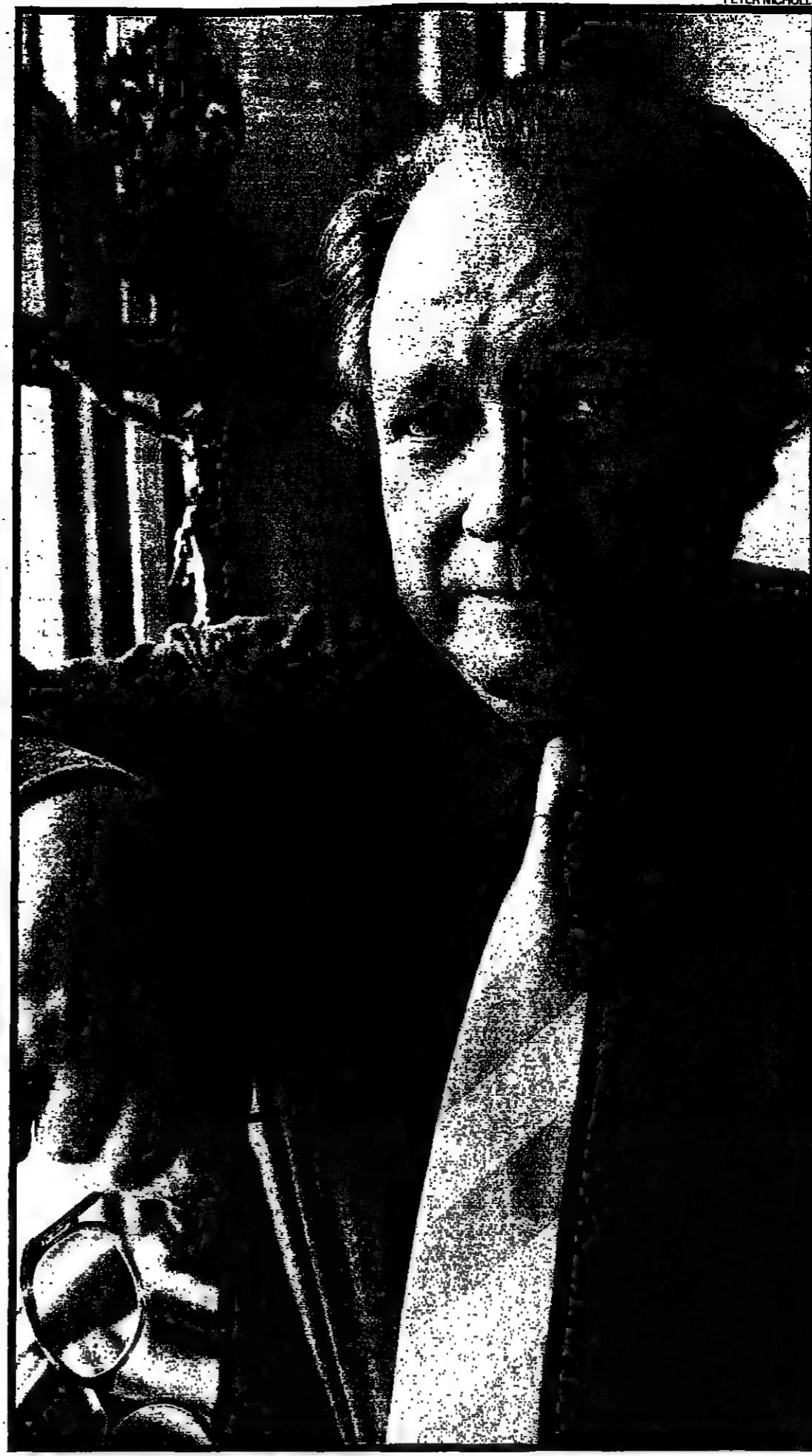
This was a scenario which had already been discussed in the Goldsmith camp. But in the event we were dismayed when it became apparent that Major had no intention of keeping what Goldsmith believed to be a bargain.

There is no doubt that many of us believed a referendum might even win the forthcoming election for the Conservative Party. Margaret Thatcher, while remaining loyal to her party, was of the opinion that a referendum on polling day would turn out discontented Conservatives who would otherwise have stayed at home. I believe that for Major to announce a referendum would have been a masterstroke. The Referendum Party would have moved to support the Conservatives, and disenchanted Conservatives might have voted for their own party so that their votes in the referendum would count for something.

Unlike Harold Wilson, Major was not prepared to allow an open debate in his Cabinet or in his party. Dissenting ministers would have to resign. A little later we discovered why: Major admitted to a national newspaper that if there were a referendum immediately, he wouldn't win. In other words, Major had made his position clear: there would be a referendum on a single currency only when he had marshalled all the power of Government and the political Establishment in favour.

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This delicate situation continued for some weeks more. Still there was total silence from the Conservatives about a full referendum. The situation was becoming perplexing and suspicious about John Major's intentions began to grow. Then, on March 10, word reached us from within Major's camp that there



BUENOS DIAS CHORIZO. SO LONG SAVELIOY.



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'Jackie had begged him to go to bed with her'



In Day Three of Hilary and Piers du Pré's memoir of their sister, Jacqueline du Pré tells how Jacqueline's fight for survival meant giving the disturbed musical genius what she wanted — Kiffer, Hilary's husband

Danny was due to arrive on a late plane, so Kiffer set off to collect him from the airport, leaving Jackie and me to prepare supper. Everything was ready when, suddenly, the night was punctuated by the rhythmic honking of the car horn. Quickly we lit the candles in the lanterns and ran out on to the terrace.

"Hil, don't leave me, don't even leave me alone."

"Jack," I said softly, stopping and looking straight into her eyes, "you know I won't. I shall stay with you all the time. Come on."

We jumped off the little wall and on to the road, to find Kiffer and Danny [Barenboim, the conductor and Jackie's husband] waiting for us. Danny and I embraced.

We opened the front door into the warm and glowing room, and we were welcomed by delicious smells of supper.

"Where's the bathroom?" said Danny, looking around.

"Come with me. There's no too here, I'm afraid," Kiffer led the incredulous Danny outside again and directed him into the bushes.

The moment he was out of the door, Jackie turned to me. "Hil, I don't want to see him. I'm going to bed."

"Oh no, you're not, Jackie, you're staying here. Just let Kiffer and me do all the talking."

We made supper as cheerful as possible, but Jackie refused even to look at Danny. He was upset. We had decided to give him our room downstairs: Jackie was to sleep in the blue room upstairs and we moved into the big room.

The next day was awful. I was the first to wake and went straight to the window. The

weather had changed, it was grey and wet, and the wind was coming from the south — a bad sign. It wasn't long before Jackie came in and sat on the end of our bed. She looked exhausted.

"How did you sleep, Jackie?" I asked.

"I didn't, and I'm going to sleep all day."

"Look, Jack," Kiffer said, tenderly. "Danny's terribly upset and he's trying so hard. Please try and be civil. We

haven't got time to go to bed."

Kiffer and I never let go of each other. Marriage, I think, is like a bank balance: the more you put in the more you can take out. This was an expensive time"

Kiffer came to bed with me and, if Jackie needed him, he went up to her later. At times, I wept myself to sleep

won't leave you, but you must make an effort. He's as upset as you are. Try and see it from his point of view."

I went downstairs to prepare breakfast: hot coffee and croissants. Danny came into the kitchen. We gave each other a kiss.

"Where is everybody?"

"Kiffer is just coming and I think I heard Jackie moving around. I'm sure she'll be down in a moment."

It was cold and we sat round the table trying to warm ourselves with coffee. Danny was obviously chilly but trying, unsuccessfully, to be jolly. Jackie was silent and glum.

Danny sniffed. "I think I'm getting a cold. Have you a

pill?"

"I will, Danny..."

Danny was warm and friendly, although he was obviously sad and hurt. We embraced and he left with Kiffer for the airport.



Kiffer and I never let go of each other. Marriage, I think, is like a bank balance: the more you put in the more you can take out. This was an expensive time"

We returned to Ashmansworth where Jackie announced she needed to be alone for a day or two.

"I'll be back soon. I'll phone."

And she did phone, almost the moment she arrived in London. It was difficult to understand what she was saying, but she sounded demoted. Kiffer leapt into the car and sped off.

I knew he was doing the right thing, but it left me a quaking mess. I felt so confused. I don't remember how I coped with the children.

When Kiffer returned in the evening, he took me into the garden and I sobbed and sobbed as he told me (but I had already guessed) that Jackie had begged him to go to bed with her — and so he had.

Although we had both expected this to happen, the shock for me was enormous. I wept in his arms, immensely relieved he had come home, but feeling utterly betrayed.

Jackie was fighting to survive and she knew Kiffer was not overwhelmed by her; therefore, in a crisis she could turn to him and he would be strong enough for her in a way no one had managed before.

When I married Kiffer I had found my life and my love where I felt I could be free and where I knew I was safe. But the only way to make Jackie better was to give her what she wanted. And she wanted Kiffer.

As I struggled with myself, Kiffer said: "... and she's coming back tomorrow."

He went up to her later. Sometimes I was able to cope, but at other times I felt overwhelmed and wept myself to sleep.

Kiffer and I were both in this together. In my heart of hearts I knew what Jackie wanted and what she was aiming for. Of course, I didn't like even imagining her with Kiffer.

Kiffer and I had talked so much about Jackie and I had warned her of what I instinctively felt and knew. At that time there was no evidence, no proof of what I was saying, and he thought I was exaggerating unreasonably.

It seemed to me that Jackie had unconsciously always been a cuckoo in the nest. First in childhood, when everything revolved around her. Later, in music as I lost my confidence in the wake of her genius. Eventually, I had escaped and made a new life with my husband and four children. Now, she was in my home, absorbed by my family, trying to take my husband away. And my husband was with her, in his bed.

But at the same time, I was watching my sister go through hell. She was tormented, frightened and very muddled.

The moment I stopped the car, the children would tumble out and run like wild-cats, hotly pursued by Jackie and me. They screeched with delight as Jackie pounded along behind them.

When Jackie was in good form, these were halcyon days.

On the one hand I was glad she had turned to my family, for help, but, on the other, I felt robbed and lost. Sometimes I felt I was required to give up everything I loved to Jackie.

My way of dealing with the situation was to keep life as normal as possible. When Jackie was very depressed, sometimes crying all morning, I didn't want the children to be with her. They found themselves taken on lots of sprees.

Alternatively, Kiffer and Jackie slept in the attic, a spacious, light room where she could shut herself away if she needed to. Through the summer months, whenever she needed to be alone with Kiffer during the day, they walked over the fields and down. Some excursions were longer than others, but invariably she remained in a much better frame of mind.

Kiffer always came to bed with me and, if Jackie needed

But one day, my feelings overcame me. In the early morning, after a particularly demanding period, when Jackie had been in a slough of despondency, I suddenly found it all too much. Kiffer had been struggling to keep Jackie afloat and was feeling very weary himself, but I was beginning to struggle, too, and became engulfed with panic and tears. I ran out of the house across the field to the hedge under the oak tree. I

aim is to help Jackie, and at the moment she needs both of us. I won't let you down and we won't let her down either. You know that. Now, come and have some breakfast and then you'll feel better."

Despite Kiffer's reassurance, I was watchful. I couldn't help it. People might say "How could a marriage survive like that?" But Kiffer and I never let go of each other. We were still there together all the time. In the end, marriage, I think, is like a bank balance: the more you put in the more you can take out. This was an expensive time."

We had planned to go back to France in August, but Kiffer was still heavily involved closing down our poultry business. Mum and Dad were longing to go, so we decided that I should go ahead with them and the children, and that Kiffer would follow with Jackie two weeks later.

We had planned to go back to France in August, but Kiffer was still heavily involved closing down our poultry business. Mum and Dad were longing to go, so we decided that I should go ahead with them and the children, and that Kiffer would follow with Jackie two weeks later.

One morning, not long after our arrival at L'ile, I heard the postman calling out. It was a telegram from Jackie, asking me to phone. Leaving the children with Mum, I tore down the mountain to the only telephone in Sardisac. It took a while to ring through, but eventually Jackie and I were talking amicably on the phone.

"Mummmmm..."

"Don't tell Mum but... when I grow up, I won't be able to walk or move."

"Neither of us stirred or spoke. We just stared at each other."

It was while we were there one day, when I was 12 and Jackie 9, that Jackie suddenly looked at me with an intense expression and confided a whispered secret.

"Hil?"

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The day John Major almost quit

Black Wednesday left John Major shaken, reviled and ready to resign, says Anthony Seldon in the fourth extract from his book

The most difficult day — September 16, 1992 — in John Major's political life began ordinarily enough, with Downing Street basking in a day more summery than autumnal. At his pre-7am meeting he was told of overnight activities, when foreign exchange officials had been monitoring the grim picture of a wave of selling of sterling in foreign exchange markets — New York, Tokyo — gathering momentum as it moved towards London. The question that morning was, should interest rates be put up then, or might further intervention just work? The Bank of England, however, spent millions of pounds before the opening of the London market, to no effect.

Just before 9am Major and Norman Lamont spoke on the telephone. As the intervention had failed, Lamont said that an interest-rate hike was the only alternative. That was what Major had dreaded: any interest-rate rise would play straight into the hands of Eurosceptics as evidence of why Britain should not become any more closely involved in Europe. Major was anxious to involve his three most weighty Cabinet ministers — Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Clarke — in the evolving decisions, not least — as was his style — so that they felt bound to any outcome. It so happened that all were at Admiralty House that morning to discuss contingency plans after the French referendum result. Major was called out of the meeting at 10.30am to talk to Lamont, and returned to say he had agreed to a 2 per cent interest-rate increase to stem the run on the pound.

After the meeting broke up, Major told Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Pierre Bérégovoy, the French Prime Minister, that, despite the interest-rate rises, Britain intended to stay within the exchange-rate mechanism if at all possible. The rise took effect at 11am, but sterling did not respond immediately. Lamont was glued to the money market screens and realised within seconds that the baple was lost. Major did his best to maintain a semblance of normality. At midday, he kept an appointment with a group of backbenchers. With Treasury officials waiting at the door, Major extended the meeting to 25 minutes, rather than ushering out the backbenchers at the end, of their allotted ten minutes.

Heseltine, Hurd and Clarke — understandably distracted by the morning's events — returned to their departments, where they anxiously watched events unfold on television. At 12.30pm, all three were recalled to Admiralty House, where they met Major and Lamont in the dining room, lined with portraits of former naval heroes, now used as a temporary command centre. The news was not good. A wave of gloom had swept across British business and homeowners that morning, as they faced interest rates they could not afford. Billions were wiped off share prices as the stock market shed another 30 points. "We are losing tens of

millions of pounds for every few minutes that we go on talking," the Chancellor burst out. Speculators, sensing the kill, were locked into selling sterling in the knowledge that they could, after the inevitable devaluation, buy it back more cheaply, thereby making billions of pounds of profit at the Government's expense.

At 12.45pm, the ministerial group was joined by Treasury and Bank officials. Major's chairing of the meeting was described as slightly rattled, but, authoritatively. As the morning interest-rate rise had failed, the options now were fourfold: to increase interest rates to 15 per cent, to let the

Treasury, and suspend ERM membership, now, or follow his most senior Cabinet ministers and give it one last heave. He chose the latter. The meeting broke up at 2pm, and at 2.15pm the Bank announced rates would rise to 15 per cent — reversing all the hard-fought cuts since October 1990.

Speculation in Whitehall had been rising all day. Many Cabinet ministers knew little of what was going on. John Wakeham, Leader of the Lords, was due to go to Charterhouse school to watch his son play football, but spoke to Robin Butler before leaving, saying he thought it odd that he had not been involved.

Butler replied that he had found out what was going on only when he happened to pass by No 10. Butler joined the group when it met before 4pm in Admiralty House, waiting for the Governor and Chancellor to return from the City to report on the effects of the second interest-rate rise.

The three heavyweight ministers were touchy or not being better informed. Butler joked in the waiting room that here were some of the most influential people in the country during a decisive moment in its history, sitting around with no access to any market information; no one had thought to install Reuters monitors on a computer network in the Prime Minister's quarters in Admiralty House.

When the Chancellor and Governor returned, Lamont first had a private meeting with Major, and then the large meeting was reconvened. The day had so obviously been lost; talk revolved around how best to handle and present the news. Lamont, it was agreed, should announce the reversal of the rise to 15 per cent back to 12 per cent. Heseltine and Clarke pressed for a return to 10 per cent, but the Treasury and Bank agreed that such a move was precipitous and might put the pound at risk. Norman Fowler was sent to do the rounds of the television studios, presenting the news as favourably as he could. Perhaps over-cautiously, Fowler was depicted to speak because, as party chairman, he was not a government minister and so would not be speaking prejudicially before the meeting of the EMS Monetary Committee in Brussels that night. But Lamont, too, conducted several of the early media interviews before returning to the Treasury and debating, over takeaway pizza, what should be done about interest rates and which line to take at the Brussels meeting.

Soon there were stories on the grapevine that Major had cracked, lost his nerve, or "wobbled" on the day. There is no truth in any of these rumours. Some suspected Lamont's supporters put the rumours about, an accusation he denies. Major had periods of irritation, particularly against the Bundesbank. He complained that the Bank of England, especially Eddie George, had not done enough earlier to remedy the position. But, throughout the key meetings and in all the decisions, he was almost inhumanly calm and self-possessed. Although obviously under great pressure, he elicited opinions from everyone, asked the questions, listed pros and cons, and took the final decisions.

That night, Major was the first of his team to take on board fully what a devastating blow would prove to the Government, and his own position, as well as to party



Bad day for most of the nation, good day for some in the City: it was estimated that speculators made £10 billion on Black Wednesday

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS PRIZE DRAW — THE TIMES

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To coincide with the launch of our supplement *Driving Passions*, free with yesterday's newspaper, *The Times* has teamed up with *The Sunday Times* and Churchill Insurance, to offer readers the chance to win one of four exciting cars, each worth around £20,000.

Harvey Postlethwaite, designer of Formula One cars for Tyrrell and Ferrari, says of the Lotus Elise, above, "It puts the grin on your face from the first moment you drive it". The Elise is one of the most exciting cars to have come out of Britain in years and has scored more plaudits from more pundits than almost any sports car, writes Kevin Eason, *Times* motoring correspondent.

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The tensions at the top: the rivalries in the Major Cabinet that led to revolt

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CHANGING TIMES

Hogarth was capable of far more than satire, as two new shows demonstrate. Richard Cork reports

All life and lust is here

With his flair for controversy and mass-reproduction selling, William Hogarth ensured himself a fame granted to few other British artists. His very name has entered our language, as an adjective used to describe rumbustious scenes of tippling, lechery and corruption. But if we have a ready-made image of what Hogarthian means, do we really know Hogarth and his seeming, multi-faceted work?

The question is raised at the British Museum and the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester, where two major surveys of his graphic images have been organised to mark the 300th anniversary of Hogarth's birth. Drawing on the Whitworth's own superb collection, more than 100 Hogarth prints are displayed there in a survey of his central involvement with the city. The British Museum's exhibition, thoughtfully selected by David Bindman and subtitled *Serious Comedy*, underlines the immense energy and ambition of a man associated too readily with boisterous satire alone.

Relishing his enviable freedom of movement, during a period when the London art world had few schools and no Royal Academy, this tireless, self-made individualist defiantly explored a bewildering array of possibilities. Low-life images were produced at the same time as genteel portrait groups and soap-operas moralities. Erotic scenes coexist in his output with a grandiose, sombre painting at Lincoln's Inn extolling the virtues of justice. Hogarth was astonishingly versatile, uneven in achievement and impossible to pin down. The only important subject he avoided was landscape.

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Those words apply supremely to *A Midnight Modern Conversation*, the most popular of Hogarth's prints. He claimed that it had moralising intentions, and the well-dressed revellers tottering round the punchbowl are all perilously near total collapse. One, scarcely able to support himself with a high-backed chair, pours wine onto the bald head of a drinker sprawled across the floor. Another, slumped in the corner next to a retching companion, struggles to light an upside-down pipe. But he holds the candlestick so feebly that it threatens to set him ablaze. Although Hogarth's inscription claims that he intends to "lash the Vices", the print seems knockabout rather than mer-

ely.

Stages of Cruelty. He set the scene in an operating theatre, where the corpse of the sadistic Tom Nero receives its gruesome come-uppance. Presided over by the callous indifference of physicians observing the proceedings, Nero is subjected to the most humiliating dissection imaginable. While a young assistant makes incisions in his feet, and another butcher-like figure gouges his eye-socket, the haggard senior surgeon carves into his bowels, pulling out intestines. A dog is permitted to gnaw at his discarded remains. Hogarth saw this degradation as a suitable fate

for a man who had himself been guilty of terrible crimes against animals, and he came to believe that publication of *The Four Stages of Cruelty* had "checked the diabolical spirit of barbarity, which, I am sorry to say, was once so prevalent in this country".

But he was also able to express a surprising amount of tenderness. When the retired sea-captain Thomas Coram established the Foundling Hospital, Hogarth backed the enterprise with limitless, unpaid enthusiasm. For the Court Room in the new building, he depicted the moment when Moses, "the first foundling", was given by his mother to Pharaoh's daughter. In Hogarth's engraved version of the painting, he shows far greater anguish on the mother's face. Although Pharaoh's daughter appears confident of her ability to reassure the child, and holds out a welcoming hand, he is afraid to leave the maternal robes. His expression reveals all the desperation of a small boy reluctant to leave the woman he loves.

In the end, though, Hogarth is at his most trenchant when dealing with modern urban life. Images of humanity brawling, cheating and carousing in city thoroughfares

dominate both shows, in London and Manchester alike. Although Hogarth hoped that the contrasting prints of *Beer Street* and *Gin Lane* would "reform some reigning vices peculiar to the lower class of people", they did not have the effect he intended. For *Beer Street's* vision of prosperous contentment has always been overlooked, in favour of the apocalyptic energy animating *Gin Lane's* intoxicating hell.

© Hogarth and his Times at the British Museum (071-635 1555) until Jan 4; Hogarth: The Artist and the City at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (061-275 7452) until Nov 8

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE extensive exhibition *Craft* aims to undermine the distinction between art and craft and show how those who make art employ a great deal of craft and vice versa. Unfortunately, the affordable scale of most of the objects gives it an air of an upmarket bring-and-buy sale. The work is most successful when the suggested gap between disciplines seems slight: the raggy, craggy work of Ben Hall, with his denim rag rugs, for instance, or Joyce Scott's wire and glass head voodoo dolls, or Alga Müller's plaster cushion studed with ceramic fragment.

Cecile Johnson-Soliz makes fabulous pots, fundamental expressions in themselves, but displays them on too oppressive and high a plinth. Fergal Stapleton and Rebecca Warren's glass rocket, in a display case with the back of a circular sticky label representing the Moon, is displayed as quite a grand collaborative statement. *Richard Salmon, Edwards Square, Studios, 59 South Edwards Square, London W8 (0171-602 9928)*, to Nov 8

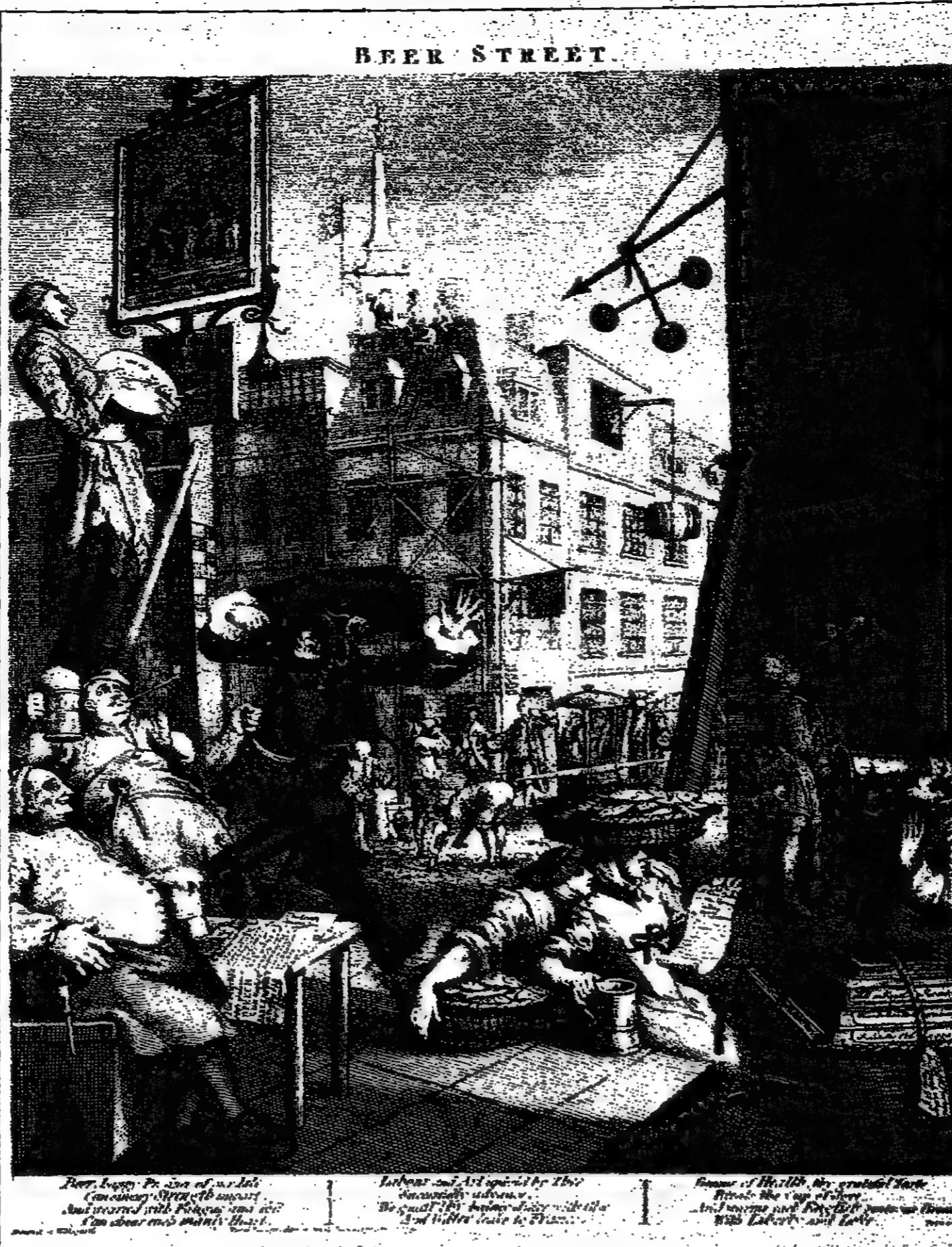
□ EVIDENCE of a painstaking project recording the span and range of an archaeological dig along a part of the Ridgeway is currently on view at both the University and Pitt Rivers Museums, Oxford. The excavated ground has been photographed, inch by inch, by painter Simon Callery and photographer Andrew Watson. The University Museum has installed seven specially built 27-drawer deep-plan chests. It is possible to pull open any of the drawers to view a section of the exact-scaled information. Along the road at the annex of the Pitt Rivers Museum it is possible to see the photographs arranged all together to gain an overview. However, in this case knowing that something exists may be enough, without having to see it.

The Selsbury Project, Oxford University Museum, Parks Road, Oxford and Pitt Rivers Museum, Balfour Building, 60 Banbury Road until Oct 31

□ A SLEEPING child: the upper part of a woman's body, legs and a lower torso, modelled perfectly out of wax, lie across the floor, lean against the wall, or hang from the ceiling. The "realistic" human form, which has returned with a vengeance over the past decade, is probably the easiest way to combine classical form with contemporary expression. The most successful piece in Pia Stadthammer's first London show, however, seem to be those that carry her point to conclusion. Two larger-than-life figures, modelled or cast in less soft material, lie heavy on the floor, with heads propped against the wall to set up a strange relation between their apparent likeness, scale and surface. These figures carry more plausible gravity and weight than the wax figures, which provide just too obvious a strange image.

Defina, 50 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 (0171-357 6600), until Nov 23

SACHA CRADDOCK



Bar removed from the intoxicated hell he depicted in *Gin Lane*, Hogarth's *Beer Street* (1751) offers a vision of prosperous contentment

Wonderful sets, but at a price

Sampling opera in Europe is a curious experience nowadays. Attending new stagings of *Das Rheingold* in Amsterdam and *Turandot* in Paris brought severe culture shock, since there was little to distract musically on either evening. I spent most of both wondering what on earth they could have cost. Spectacle has been a part of opera since it started, and British audiences are being starved of it. Operatically, we

are the Poor Man of Europe. I would guess that the Dutch *Rheingold*, the first instalment of Pierre Audi's new *Ring*, cost considerably more than the whole Jones-Lowry cycle at Covent Garden. George Tsypin's set is based on three full-size false stages, which fly about. A walkway is built round the pit into the stalls area. There were two vertiginously suspended balconies on stage for adventurous members of the audi-

ence. There are four bare lightbulbs. It is all wonderfully lit, and looks the million dollars it doubtless cost.

What it all did for *Das Rheingold* is another matter. The singers were dwarfed by their surroundings, and at the level of narrative the performance was, to put it mildly, vague. The more experienced soloists — Chris Merritt (Loge), Graham Clark (Mime), Anne Glevang (Erda) — did best. John Brücheler's tentative Wotan left a large hole at the centre of the action. But what scuppered the evening was the dull conducting of Hartmut Haenchen and the very ordinary playing by the Hague Residentie Orchestra. I would rather a bare stage and Bernard Haitink.

Indeed, both evenings demonstrated both powerfully and negatively that conductors are ultimately responsible for the

success or otherwise of an opera performance. There was nothing a fine cast or sparkly direction could do with Georges Prêtre's disastrously lethargic account of *Turandot* in Paris. Sergey Larin, the excellent Calaf, had to break the last word of *Nessun dorma*: Sharon Sweet, on better form as the Ice Princess than at Covent Garden, had to pause for breath even more often; only Barbara Fritoli (Liù) had the breath control to see her through without mishap.

Francesca Zambello's production is huge fun. The Emperor is kept in a cage and Turandot has taken over, sustained in power by two dozen fierce Amazonian guards. The executioner is female. The only men in the palace are eunuchs, squealing and dithering in an unacceptably emaschist fashion, and the three Masks who, in interesting leather gear, are plainly not the maturing kind. The second act opens in the palace kitchen, where hundreds of princely heads are stored in a wire-front cupboard. The three riddles are posed over Lou-Ling's meal. This is the gender-war writ large.

It works fine until the last scene, which can only be seen as an Unhappy End. Zambello goes into another production, and Alison Chitty's door constructivist set suddenly goes bright orange. So do the Amazons. Never can the argument for ending the piece where Puccini broke off, with the death of Liù, have been more strongly made. After all, even without this gender-war gloss, the action of *Turandot* is still waiting to be resolved.



TEN OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Dream ticket

Richard Cork's daily guide to the Hayward Gallery's still lifes

■ **GIORGIO DE CHIRICO: The Song of Love, c.1914** ALL the objects seem frozen in this deserted, heavily shadowed piazza. Even the puff of white smoke above the distant train looks arrested in space. Reduced to a black silhouette, the train appears incapable of motion. As for the shining glove hung so incongruously next to the classical carving, its firmness is unrelaxed by a breeze. The juxtaposition of modern glove and ancient head is startling, and suggests that of Cézanne haunted by his country's inescapable past. But no rational explanation can be found for this teasingly enigmatic painting. It is as mysterious as the green ball poised in the foreground, like a stage prop left over from the dramatisation of an indecipherable dream.

□ Objects of Desire, sponsored by BMW in association with The Times, opens at the Hayward (0171-960 4242) on Thursday

TOMORROW: Henri Matisse's *Goldfish and Palette*

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO 5

Reviewed by Richard Osborne

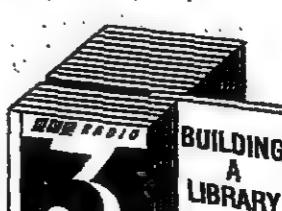
WHEN Trevor Harvey discussed Beethoven's Fifth in the first ever *Building a Library* 40 years ago last Saturday, there were fewer than a dozen recordings available. Now there are getting on for a hundred. And yet the conductors who dominated the 1957 survey — Toscanini, Furtwängler, Bruno Walter, Erich Kleiber, Otto Klemperer — still dominate the interpretative high ground.

The winner in 1957 was Klemperer's 1955 mono recording with the Philharmonia Orchestra (EMI CDM 63882-2). No one conducts the last two movements better than Klemperer, but his account of the first movement now seems a touch stale.

A great performance of the Fifth will generate huge tensions but will have nobility, too. Ponderous won't do in the first movement, nor will heedless precipitation. Almost alone, Toscanini could drive the music fiercely forward while at the same time achieving a fully articulated orchestral sound. His 1939 NBC recording (RCA GD 60270) is the great performing traditions of the past.

Toscanini was a follower of the new functionalism in Beethoven interpretation that took root in Germany in the 1920s. That movement's modern counterpart is period authen-

ticity, with free delivery, to The Times Music Shop to FREEPST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 493; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Schubert's String Quartet, Death and the Maiden



tism. None of these performances would be my first choice, though both Norrington and Eliot Cardiner catch powerfully the explosive sonorities of Beethoven's revolutionary orchestration. Haitink's performance is marred by bizarre retouchings of dynamics and tempo.

At the heart of the old German tradition of Beethoven interpretation was great textural clarity, serving the music's contrapuntal element, and a richly developed sound serving the harmonic element. No one demonstrated this better than Furtwängler and the Berlin Philharmonic, but Carlos Kleiber does so too in his celebrated 1974 Vienna Philharmonic recording (DG 447 400-2, £9.99). Kleiber is profoundly attuned to the great performing traditions of the past.

Equally, I would not want to be without Furtwängler's 1937 Berlin studio recording (Bis-DW 0067). After 1945 his reading changed, but in the heyday of his art, he understood the symphony more completely than anyone.

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HOGARTH



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RODNEY MILNES

Soft nutty centres

TALK about grabbing your attention. Within the first moments of Hilary Fannin's play a middle-aged woman has been presented with a birthday cake with about a million candles on it, one of her daughters has carried onstage a vast cut-out photograph of a man in naval uniform, and her gun-toting mother-in-law has been warned that she will soon be killed by people unknown. It would take an all-electric dramatist to sustain that degree of stimulus, and, for all the brightness of her dialogue, Fannin is not yet that.

Sadly, her play tends to splutter. The plot never quite ignites. The characters sometimes seize your interest, but do not hold it. Very soon you twig that the Brazils are an

Mackrel Sky Bush W12

eccentric dysfunctional family, largely because of the unexplained disappearance of naval-officer dad, and by the end you neither know nor care a lot more.

The time is the early 1970s and the place Dublin. The bailiffs are in the offing, thanks to the debts of Ruth Hegarty's Mamie, a professional singer who brags about her family on Irish radio but has little time for it in practice. The elder daughter, Emma McIvor's Maddie, is expecting a baby out of wedlock. The younger, Vivian Verdeen's Stephanie, talks obsessively of an order of nuns who may or may not be called the Little Sisters of Halitosis. Her son, Ben Palmer's Jack, whinges about his life as a deckboy on a trawler.

Meanwhile their grandmother, played by Gillian Raine in feisty, boozed-up style, directs insults at Mamie, whom in her more coherent moments she blames for the break-up of her lad's marriage. At other times she lapses into senility, mistaking her grandson for her son and the rest of the family for unruly patients who need to be chased from her doctor's surgery.

Fire, but where does it all lead? Nowhere much. The language has some of the spirit we have come to expect of plays by Irish writers. But when Maddie is asked if she thought she was "kick-starting time travel" when she got pregnant, or a boring neighbour is told he is in the house so often "the fish could forget your signature", you feel a self-conscious wry swagger is substituting for wit.

This is a first play, a world premiere and part of the Bush Theatre's 25th birthday celebrations, so it would be nice to avoid that lukewarm plaudits promising. But after sitting through Mike Bradwell's production it is about the best I can do.

**BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE**



Kim Louis and the gang from *Kat and the Kings* sing one of those oh so familiar rock'n'roll classics they weren't digging back in the late 1950s

Rock back the clock

After years of going along to compilation musicals where familiar hits are looped together into a noose to jerk us back to jolly times gone by, here is an exhilarating bid times' musical with brand new music. Of course, we end up tapping feet in the same way, but it's great to do so some new 1950s rock.

Ten years ago the South African songwriting team of David Kramer and Tallep Petersen set their first musical in Cape Town's District Six, an area levelled by the bosses

of apartheid for daring to show that different races could live together in energetic harmony. Their new musical returns there, telling the story of 16-year-old Kat Diamond and the group he founded back in 1957 and named Cavalla Kings, after a local cigarette.

Kat Diamond never existed, unlike Salie Daniels, who plays him in his later years. But at the age of 16, Daniels did form a rock band, and the story hops along a route similar to that of his Rockets 40 years ago — up and down, fast:

His presence in the show, where at the end he springs back on to the stage in a golden suit, gives the evening an extra zip. Still sufficiently snake-hipped to do a nifty bit of tap with his dapper younger self (Jody Abrahams), he sings his numbers in a voice like dark velvet.

The five young singers are

irresistibly good-hearted and sing beautifully, while a couple are engaging clowns. Loukman Adams is lead singer and Kim Louis, playing the sister of Ricardo Buchenroeder's daffy Magoo, can certainly deliver a soul number with heart and passion, while Junaid Booyens's compulsive grin splits his cheeks. Kramer also directs, and has turned these six into a smoothly operating team, energetic, likeable and displaying split-second timing in the comedy.

Apartheid is a background presence, obliging the Kings to be bellhops by day even if a celebrated group ai night, and contributing to their eventual break-up, but the emphasis is on the liberation brought about by rock'n'roll, the spiriting delight of it.

Lyrics and routines are more explicit than they could ever have been in the 1950s, but the music echoes old styles without resorting to pastiche. As the rock'n'rollers rock to and fro, to and 'ro, oh my Platters and my Drifters long ago...

JEREMY KINGSTON

LONDON CONCERTS: Schumann played in historic style, and a touring Russian orchestra

Periodic revelation

THE SECOND instalment of the *Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique's* Schumann Revealed series at the Barbican had its revelatory moments, but had not every aspect of the first two concerts lived up to the title. There is no doubt that attempting to recreate the orchestral forces and layout of the Leipzig Gewandhaus in the 1840s at once dispels the myth about Schumann's inability to orchestrate. The scores, in particular, the symphonies are full of solicitous details that can be lost in accounts by large modern orchestras.

This time around it was the sound of the horns, usually in a combination of the natural and valved instruments as specified by the composer, that was most striking, and not just in the marvellous *Konzertstück* for four

horns and orchestra, though this was an undoubted tour de force for the quartet of soloists: Roger Montgomery, Susan Dent, Gavin Edwards and Robert Masket.

But not all the problems of this most elusive of early Romantic composers were automatically resolved. John Elliot Gardiner's *alla turaccia* approach brought out to an unprecedented degree the extent to which Schumann's orchestral music was influenced by Beethoven, notably in the first movement of the Second Symphony and, still much less absorbed, in the incomplete *Zwickau Symphony* in G minor.

But he was not always able to find the natural voice for Schumann's rhetoric. This was especially marked in the Cello Concerto and the Introduction and Allegro for piano in which the soloists — Steven Isserlis and Robert Levin respectively — achieved a fluidity and degree of fantasy that were not matched by Gardiner.

TESS KNIGHTON

Out of the steppes

MUSIC from the ex-Soviet republics is the focus of the Dimensions Festival that opened at the Festival Hall on Friday. The two-week event is admirably wide-ranging, designed to give a fuller picture of music-making across the former Soviet Union than is usually presented here — indeed so interesting that the opening concert by the Russian State Symphony Orchestra looked decidedly tame.

The orchestra was playing one of its standard programmes: Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol*, Rakhmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, and Ravel's orchestration of *Pictures at an Exhibition*. But the hard-working band, which spends much time now on foreign tours, sounded far from demoralised.

Here it was directed not by its music

director, Yevgeny Svetlanov, but by Arnold Katz. An old professional who built up the Novosibirsk Philharmonic, Katz knows how to get the best from an orchestra: the strings displayed their gleaming tone in the Rimsky, and brought yearning intensity to the short *Scrabian Rêverie*.

Most of all, Katz achieved the remarkable in making *Pictures* sound newly interesting. Right from the start the grotesquerie of Mussorgsky's original piano pieces came across. Katz often adopted slow tempos, turning this into a performance of deep Russian melancholy.

The only disappointment was the lacklustre pianism of Mikhail Rudy in the Rachmaninov. He played with spiky accentuation rather than strong rhythm, making the faster episodes skinish and the slower ones unipic.

In the 18th variation the orchestra provided all the emotion, but what is the point of the *Paganini Rhapsody* without a pianist capable of passion?

JOHN ALLISON

NEW RELEASES

BOOTY CALL (18) Besterious and bawdy African-American comedy with Jamie Foxx and Tommy Davidson

DIRTY WHORES (18) (0888269)

DIRTY ABOVE WATER (15) Eclectic

comics run a couple's vacation

UNHOLY BLACK COMEDY with Harvey Keitel and Sam Rockwell

WOMAN'S DEATH First in a Gengi

Büchner trilogy, showing the last days of

the popular hero of the French

Revolution. David Foenkinos directs one of

the best last plays by writers

of the 19th century. (0171-229 0706)

MANCHESTER English National

Opera's 20th anniversary

celebrates its 10th year with a

new production of *Die Walküre* by

Howard Davies. (0121-363 1731)

CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING Pre-

big London revival for Arnold Wesker's

1962 play about class discontent and

unholy obedience in the armed

forces. (0171-580 8200)

COVENTRY Catherine Cusack and

Michael Higgs play the virgin and the

virgin in a production by

Michael Gordon. (01203 524524)

OXFORD Welsh National Opera's

autumn tour gets underway with the

company's production of *Die Fledermaus* and *Frödorff* by Carmen

Hoffmann. (01865 242444)

MANCHESTER English National

Opera's 10th anniversary

celebrates its 10th year with a

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

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Beware of short-term bankers

The Barclays sale of BZW should worry us, says Anatole Kaletsky

Last Friday Martin Taylor, the highly regarded chief executive of Barclays Bank who is also an influential business adviser to Tony Blair, announced that he was breaking up Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the biggest City investment bank remaining in British ownership.

This is a far more important event in Britain's financial history than the collapse of Barings or the sale of SG Warburg to Swiss Bank Corporation last year. BZW was the last publicly owned investment bank still in British hands. And Barclays, with BZW under its wing, was the last British bank that seemed big enough to have any chance of competing with the great investment houses of Wall Street, or the German, Swiss and Dutch universal banks.

Two years ago I wrote a scathing article on this page about *The State We're In*, the bestselling book on Britain's economy and constitution written by my old friend Will Hutton. I attacked Hutton's book largely because it seemed clear to me back in 1995 that Britain was on the threshold of a long period of prosperity and would probably return to full employment. Hutton (and the millions of people convinced by his passionate argument) believed the exact opposite — that Britain was doomed to mass unemployment because its economy was crippled by low investment, a relentless pursuit of short-term shareholder profits and a total indifference to the interests of other "stakeholders", such as workers, consumers and generations yet unborn.

What do the two paragraphs above have in common? For me, quite a lot. One of things that prompted my attack on Hutton's book was an article by Martin Taylor. While I had criticised Hutton's pessimistic view of Britain's macroeconomic prospects, Taylor skilfully took apart Hutton's argument that financial "short-termism" was at the root of all Britain's economic problems. It was an argument that influenced millions of readers, including Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Reflecting on the events at Barclays, I now wonder whether Hutton might, after all, have been right.

I do not challenge Mr Taylor's financial logic in breaking up BZW. Neither do I accept for a moment in his apocalyptic predictions of continuous mass unemployment and economic crisis unless the management of British monetary policy is transferred to Frankfurt.

What worries me about developments at Barclays is that a large British company has again proved incapable of managing the very type of business in which individual Britons have proved uniquely successful and upon which long-term prosperity depends.

The financial services sector already employs as many people in Britain as all manufacturing businesses put together.

The British are fine financiers but poor managers

gathering and salaries are much higher than the national average, as well as more rapidly growing. As the European economy becomes more integrated, finance will play an even bigger role as we specialise in the fields where we enjoy a comparative advantage.

Yet, despite the abilities of British financiers, as manifested by their astronomical earnings and the ceaseless flow of international capital into London, British managers have proved unable to run these businesses as successfully as foreign firms.

One has to think only of the debacles at Lloyd's and Barings, the sales of Morgan Grenfell, Kleinwort Benson and Warburgs, the retreat of Britain's general insurance companies in the face of German, Swiss and French competition, and the failure of British clearing banks to establish themselves in America or Europe.

This is where Hutton's argument about short-termism comes in. Taylor gave three main reasons last week for pulling out of investment banking. First, the business was making a return on capital of only about 8 per cent, which was far lower than the 34 per cent Barclays made in retail banking. Second, the costs of investment banking were rising at a staggering rate — many salaries increased last year by 30 or 40 per cent.

Finally, Barclays decided that major new investment would be required to push BZW into the front rank of global investment banks and keep it there.

If investment bankers can secure ridiculously high salaries in a competitive job market, does this not itself indicate the short-termism which has become endemic in the City? Bankers demand exorbitant pay because they know they can be fired at any moment. Many would be happy to accept lower pay in exchange for better working conditions and more secure employment — and this was, in fact, how British banks used to be able to keep their costs down in relation to American rivals.

In the City today, however, bankers will not accept promises of security in exchange for lower pay, since they know that the promises may not be honoured. As Hutton argues in his new book *The State to Come*, one of the biggest costs of running an economy solely for short-term profits is a breakdown in the "ethic of trust".

Finally, what of the conflict between long-term strategies and short-term shareholder profits? Profitable British companies have, over the years, lost positions of global dominance in industries from power engineering and electronics to insurance, while less profitable European and Japanese companies have gained market share. If British banking follows the way of British power engineering, we will all feel the pinch.

No show

IN a further blow to William Hague's pride, even his old business friends are eschewing the Tory conference. After my disclosure that Michael Heseltine was steering clear — fearing that he would be "a ghost at the feast" — Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry and an old chum of Willie's from their days in management consultancy, has also pleaded "pressing business".

Initially, Mr Turner, who attended both the Labour and TUC conferences, said he could not come because of unavoidable "long-term" commitments in New

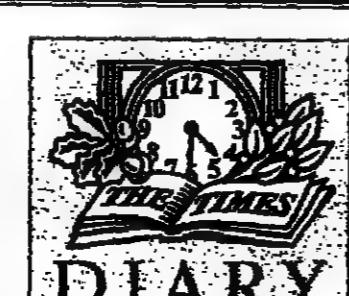
York. Now he has cancelled those plans — not to support his old friend, but to pop over to Brussels to meet Euro-business bods.

"This really should not be interpreted as a snub," ventures the CBI. "It is just a timing thing." But won't this add to Willie's paranoia? "Oh, old friends that they are, I doubt he will feel rejected."

Perhaps, but it strengthens suggestions that the CBI has given up on the Tories. Despite an embarrassing early interlude with the Young Conservatives, Mr Turner is believed to have grown exasperated by the last Government's isolationist stance on Europe. I just hope Mr Hague does not feel too isolated up in Blackpool this week.

Chain reaction

EVIDENCE of the continued influence of Camilla Parker Bowles: the Prince of Wales's first female press attaché, Sandy Henney, is leaving her office after a catfight with Ms PB. Relations deteriorated



after the Prince's friend objected to a gold chain hanging around Ms Henney's ankle, and sent a stiff missive telling her it was "inappropriate". The flunkie was unimpressed. Sandy has always liked her gold ankle chains and was known as the golden girl at the MOD, says a former colleague. "She thought it impertinent."

The daughter of a Smithfield porter, Ms H. started as a Scotland Yard clerk, drifting into Court life when she married Bob Marsh, former head of the Royal Protection Squad. Not one to take any nonsense, she is determined to leave — a year after joining.

Breakout

A WILD night out with Ann Widdecombe may seem like a rather macabre prospect, but 100 guests enjoyed a raucous thrash

with the former Prisons Minister over the weekend when she celebrated her 50th birthday.

Sadly absent was Michael Howard, the nocturnal former Home Secretary, whose Tory leadership chances site destroyed. "I had asked my priest whether I should invite Michael as a gesture of peace," says Miss Widdecombe, "but he told me Howard would probably say 'peace off'." There were no such problems for Derek Lewis, former head of prisons, who took pride of place on the top table with Cardinal Hume.

John and Norma Major failed to attend. They celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary in a quiet hotel. No doubt with just a few goldfish for company.

Chris Eubank may be a fading boxer, but he can still put on a show. He surprised Brightonians the other day by running into a mobile phone — only for the same phone to burst into a shrill ring.

Duty calls

A CONSERVATIVE MP is in trouble with her constituency association for failing to visit her patch. Anne McIntosh was hauled before her Vale of York association at the weekend to explain absences from Saturday surgeries. The problem? McIntosh is also an MEP and, as

such, has to do an awful lot of fact-finding in Brussels. But this does not impress Yorkshire worthies.

"She has to try to balance her duties," says a sombre association chairman, Geoffrey Dodsworth. "It is important for her to select her priorities. We have got to work together."

This is not the first time McIntosh has sparked controversy. She has had a fierce debate with Glyn Ford, a Labour Euro MP, who maintains that McIntosh was "dangerous" for saying it is possible to be an MP and an MEP simultaneously. He says Labour has "banned the practice, as it is impossible to do the two jobs adequately." Looks as if Miss McIntosh could be working late tonight ...

SURREAL sight on the Tube: Dr Robert Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury, in full regalia, reading a newspaper.

Snowe fall

MAD Max is about to blast into the English countryside. He is keen to acquire the beautiful house of my old friend Iain Sprout. The former Heritage Minister, now translating 11 volumes of Pushkin, is reluctantly putting historic Snowe Hall, Norfolk, on the market, and Mel Gibson, the anti-actor, is determined to buy it.



COUNTRY acres: Mel Gibson

Locals are alarmed that the pile — which once sheltered Charles I — might fall Gibson's way. For a man who has made his living from uncomplicated action movies, Gibson, I am assured, has developed a spiritual side. He has become a regular at the local Roman Catholic church, where he can be found kneeling at the altar. The £600,000 price is probably just a few gun fights in a flick for Mr Gibson, but the local party scene is not quite Bel Air. His only neighbour is the rather homely Gillian Shephard.

JASPER GERARD

A dance to the tune of Yoof?

Michael Gove has advice for Tories who feel their age

At different points in the Conservative Party's decline, its soul has been bared more effectively by the television dramatist than by any journalist. Margaret Thatcher's fall coincided with the BBC adaptation of Michael Dobbs's *House of Cards*, and the former Saatchi executive's story of a Tory leadership contest captured the malice, ambition and treachery of Conservative politicians with a pitiless accuracy. The coincidence was entirely accidental. The poetic appropriateness of the juxtaposition would, however, have delighted another, far greater, writer. Anthony Powell's novel sequence *A Dance to the Music of Time* has taken more than 25 years to make it to the small screen. It describes upper-class England from the 1930s to the 1970s. But, in its precise, delicious anatomy of snobbery, decadence and the corrupting capacity of the will to power, it is a darkly perfect complement to the Conservative Party conference.

Powell's novel sequence has its innocents and idealists, and gives off the gamy whiff of a pleasure-soaked past. The most lasting impression is, however, of its anti-hero Kenneth Widmerpool: his spirit can be detected stalking the Winter Gardens this week. Widmerpool is a compelling grotesque. Deceptively easy to ridicule, he is sustained by driving ambition and an ear permanently cocked for the rumble of the passing bandwagon. His lust for power and willingness to follow fashion, however clumsy, takes him from Eton into the heart of the Attlee Government and makes him an adornment of the Establishment, before his muddiness ultimately destroys him.

Some actors manage to eclipse their old images. Bimbo starles hide in chilly, ladylike Merchant-Ivory costumes; Joanna "sophisticated" Lumley went the opposite way to become the comic figure of *Pansy Stone*. But some never get rid of a role. Once a *Python*, forever a *Python*: and it is all very well for Andrew Sachs to be a serious actor but it won't stop people going *Out* at him in public places.

Politicians try to bury their earlier persona as red-hot rebels by swathing themselves in layers of pristine astuteness and gravitas, but still fall foul of old comrades' memories of the days when they definitely did infantilise. One of the worst temptations of being a journalist in your forties is that the irresponsible idiots of your youth keep turning up in the Cabinet, running national newspapers and enormous industries and generally posing as moral guides to the nation.

It is very hard to take them seriously, any more than it was easy to contemplate the Pope's weaving a sermon around Bob Dylan's lyrics. But then, there are probably schoolfriends of the Pope who still struggle to take him seriously.

But we must accept the turning kaleidoscope of change and growth, we really must. The present is as valid as the past and no human life should be defined by its lowest ebb. To do so is unkind and inaccurate. It is also, oddly, rather boring. We know all the sad, furious Diana stuff already. One of these years, when somebody writes a proper biography, it will sparkle because it will be complete. A real life, a whole life taken for all in all. Staring at one flat facet of that life is a poor, dull memoir. In the week she died, a friend gave me a copy of a stunningly obscure poem by the Edwardian Victor Plarr, *Epitaphium Citharidiae*. It was the last lines which struck me:

*Oh, for it would be a pity
To o'er praise her or to flout her;
She was wild, and sweet, and witty;
Let's not say dull things about her.*

One does not need to be a nonagenarian Old Etonian like Anthony Powell to find this clumsy generalisation to Yoof hideously politically misjudged. As a thirtysomething Young Abberdonian, I found the pamphlet's lumbering attempts to chill the Tories out embarrassing and — if taken as seriously as other C.P. pamphlets deserve to be — potentially harmful to the Tory cause.

Putting aside the author's failure to recognise that their pro-Europeanism is as dated as Dixie music, any attempt to impress the young by aping their manners will only bring deserved derision. In their anxiety to put past failures behind them, the Shadow Cabinet should not try to become the oldest swingers in town. The Tories' problems in the past have been due far more to a superficial conversion to modish metropolitan fashions, whether for the monetary discipline of the ERM or the management gobbledegook of the Citizen's Charter, than an adherence to durable principle. Past attempts to paint leaders as in tune with Yoof, most notably the attempt in the 1960s to depict Edward Heath as a modern man in his swinging bachelor apartment in Albany, have always offended traditionalists without fooling the fashionable.

In yesterday's *Times* interview, William Hague showed himself sensitive to the folly of following Labour by taking one's lead from focus groups and bending with the wind. Mr Hague, like most young people of his generation, knows that the politicians who win the respect of every generation are those, like Margaret Thatcher, who refuse to dance to the music of time, but stay true to enduring principle.



MOODY BLUES

Tory attitudes must change to create a mass membership party

In the era of the soundbite and the spin-doctor it is not surprising that so many consider the mass membership of political parties an irrelevance, a body of persons of no real importance with the possible exception of short-term finance. That assumption would be sorely mistaken. Television and new technology may have altered the means by which political ideas and attitudes are expressed, but they remain mere tools of the trade. The fundamental character of parties is shaped by those who choose to belong to them — especially those who are most actively involved. An annual conference allows, in fact obliges, these distinctive features to be presented to the outside world.

Tony Blair has certainly appreciated those qualities. The rapid expansion of Labour's membership — and the deliberate drive for diversity which that enterprise entailed — has been at the heart of his modernisation prospectus. The notion of new Labour would have been impossible on the basis of the original 260,000 enrolled supporters that he inherited. It was the massive increase in members that allowed him to redesign his party anew. That same changing composition was also an essential if underestimated aspect in the sudden expansion of Labour's female parliamentary representation at the last election.

The representatives assembled in Blackpool this week are doubtless a fine set of individuals. But they personify a membership that has diminished dramatically in recent years. As a consequence, the Conservative Party in the country has become less representative of British society. That fact has been recognised by William Hague. His stated aspiration of "a million members for the millennium" might owe as much to alliteration as expectation but it is an appropriate target. The Tories' chances of a relatively swift electoral revival depend critically on whether they can meet this testing challenge.

That in turn will require a revolution in attitudes. As the Conservative Party crum-

bled and collapsed it became increasingly out of touch and out of tune with the nation around it. A party that presided over vast economic change appeared incapable of understanding the social forces that have shaped contemporary Britain. The Tories have become profoundly unattractive to large sections of the electorate. These include women, especially younger, professional women, and ethnic or sexual minorities. The social spectrum reflected by the Conservative Party at present is starkly incompatible with the aim of one million members.

The Tories are too often dominated by their "Taliban Tendency", the section that would force women out of the workplace, impose their version of traditional values, enforce censorship on television and deploy the death penalty on a daily basis. This programme is often described as "populist", although it seems to suffer from a notable absence of popularity. That failure is not the result of poor presentation but a cultural shift about which many Conservatives have chosen to remain ignorant. If the Tories are really serious about mass membership, as they should be, then they will need to stand for the neo-liberal not the neolithic. Mr Blair revived his party by insisting that it reached an accommodation with the 1980s. It is time for the Tories to sue for peace with the 1960s.

Mr Hague is well aware of his party's defects. He is hardly a stranger to the modern world. His willingness to send a message to the Gay Pride march and his attendance at the Notting Hill Carnival were intended to indicate some of his sympathies. The reaction of certain Shadow Cabinet colleagues was less than supportive. On this, as on numerous other issues, he will have to defeat the old guard in the best interests of his party's future. That his hotel arrangements with his fiancée have become a matter of critical comment in Conservative circles is a reflection of the difficulties he faces. A rather more relevant issue — and one that must be addressed — is why there are not more 29-year-old professional women resi-

dent in Blackpool hotels this week.

FAST FORWARD

Reno must treat Clinton with the same rigour as Gore

No American political scandal is ever complete without tapes. A quarter-century ago, the discovery that the Nixon White House had recorded Oval Office conversations transformed the Watergate affair. In an apt response to technological progress, the Clinton Administration has now acknowledged that videotapes exist of its infamous "coffee mornings". These tapes will help the Senate to determine whether these events were — as the President has suggested — amiable conversations that by coincidence led to major campaign contributions; or, alternatively, whether the dozens of meetings hosted by Mr Clinton constituted an illegal effort to exploit the White House for partisan financial advantage.

Neither congressional committees nor the various Justice Department inquiries into this affair can be expected to reach any immediate conclusions. Matters are not likely to evolve as they did in the 1970s. To some degree all occupants of the Oval Office have sought to use their official residence in a manner conducive to their private interests. Soliciting on site offends American law but it is not the equivalent of bugging and burglary. Nonetheless, both the Clinton-Gore '96 campaign and the Democratic National Committee appear to have ignored all previously accepted practice. That a law might be regarded as archaic and unworkable is not a reason for breaching it. This is an entirely legitimate political issue.

Despite the mounting evidence of serious misconduct, Janet Reno, US Attorney-General, has stubbornly refused to pursue these accusations fully. Vice-President Al Gore, who has admitted making telephone calls to potential supporters from his office but maintains that he acted lawfully, has been placed under preliminary investigation. Within three months he will learn

whether an independent counsel will be appointed to scrutinise his role. If, as seems probable, such a person is commissioned, this will represent a serious setback to his ambitions to succeed Mr Clinton. Ms Reno's recent correspondence with the congressional leadership indicates that she will not subject the President to the same scrutiny. Republicans have reacted with fury.

It is extremely difficult to believe that Mr Gore is the sole senior figure in the Democratic Party whose conduct might merit censure. The written testimony of former White House aides such as Harold Ickes and Dick Morris portray a President desperate to raise vast sums to finance exceptionally late television commercials. Those records already released by the White House show that party operatives constantly pressed Mr Clinton to plead for political donations and that he relented on numerous occasions. The appointment of an independent counsel to investigate the entire pattern of Democratic fundraising is more than merited by the facts already known. Ms Reno is risking her previous reputation for impartiality by her reluctance to hire one.

Congress is entitled to demand such an investigation from the Attorney-General. Others are equally entitled to demand action from the legislature itself. The complicated system by which the United States regulates the interaction of money and politics has been in a state of disarray for some decades. The Democrats simply administered the final blow to this discredited formula last year. The Senate will this week have the opportunity to deliberate and then enact substantial campaign finance reform. Mr Clinton's critics have the opportunity to attack both the cause and effect of these scandals. They should demonstrate their willingness to do so.

SKIN DEEP

A moral foundation versus foundation cream

Ever since Paris awarded the golden apple to Aphrodite, women have quibbled about the nature of their beauty. And more often than not trouble has come of it. Different cultures have set different paradigms of pulchritude — from the svelte outlines of Cranach's Venus to the buxom sensuality of Rubens' belle. But whatever particular form the fashion of beauty has taken, it has tended to tyrannise the female psyche. "Taught from infancy that beauty is a woman's sceptre," wrote the pioneering feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, "the mind shapes itself to the body, and roaming round its gilt cage only seeks to adorn its prison."

Women have gained considerable freedom in the 200 years since Wollstonecraft. But a study published in America this week confirms that, in certain aspects at least, too little has changed. If anything, female preoccupation with appearance has been whipped up by mass media. Contemporary women, suggests the historian Joan Jacobs Brumberg in her *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*, are cripplingly censored by an obsession with their bodies. Brumberg compares the new year's resolutions of two adolescent diarists. Where the 19th-century girl resolves to think

before speaking, to work seriously and to be less selfish, her 20th-century counterpart vows to lose weight, cut her hair and buy more make-up. A good body rather than a good character has come to define the self.

A century ago, Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* were role models for the American girl. Meg was pretty, Amy was vain, but the heroine was Jo, the tomboy who sometimes envied her sisters' good looks. But beauty corrupts. Literature is scattered with admonitory examples of this. Charles Dickens' Little Dorrit was "not beautiful in feature" but she had an inexhaustible capacity to care for others. Jane Eyre may have been "plain", but she was possessed of a fortitude and honesty which won her fulfilment. Jane Austen's pretty Fanny Dashwood is selfish and uncompassionate. Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca was exquisite, but she was also cold and cruel.

Such literary figures provide ample counterweight to today's shallow narcissism. Keats was not writing about aesthetics when he said that truth was beauty. And beauty, it has always been known, is only skin deep. As every adolescent knows, this does not mean that she should go out and invest in a foun' 'ation cream.

Psychiatrists face dilemma on DNA

From Dr M. S. Humphreys and Dr B. J. Brockman

Sir, The Criminal Evidence (Amendment) Act 1997, which came into force last March, gives new powers to the police to obtain non-invasive material for DNA profiling. Such material will be in the form of hair or saliva samples from persons who have committed certain criminal offences.

The provision applies to those convicted before April 10, 1995, who are serving a prison sentence. It also extends to mentally disordered individuals detained under Part III of the Mental Health Act 1983, including not only those admitted to hospital by order of the court after conviction but also persons acquitted of an offence on the grounds of insanity or found unfit to plead as a result of psychiatric illness.

Home Office circular 27/1997

makes it clear that the patient's doctor

may delay the taking of samples if this might be counter-therapeutic. However, the Act states that it may be done without the patient's consent. The power lapses when the patient is discharged from hospital.

This situation poses huge ethical

and practical dilemmas for psychiatrists.

It lies in the face of the notion that those who receive a psychiatric disposal from court are no longer considered to be prisoners. It implies that they are not patients who merit compassionate treatment, and it is likely to compromise a therapeutic relationship which may already have been difficult to establish.

The law lumps together those of

sound mind convicted of serious

offences with a small but no less

significant group of individuals who,

through no fault of their own, may not

even have been fit to appear in court.

Others, albeit on technical grounds,

may actually have been acquitted.

This matter should be of concern

not simply to mental healthcare profes-

sionals working with some of the

most damaged and rejected individ-

uals in society but surely to the com-

munity at large. It goes to the heart of

the issue over how we treat those dis-

advantaged by the stigma of mental

illness.

Yours etc,

MARTIN HUMPHREYS

(Senior lecturer and honorary

consultant forensic psychiatrist),

B. J. BROCKMAN

(Consultant forensic psychiatrist),

Reaside Clinic,

The West Midlands Regional

Forensic Psychiatry Service,

Birmingham Great Park,

Bristol Road South,

Rubery, Birmingham.

October 1.

This is a surprise that a bishop,

chairman of the liturgical commis-

sion, should be reported as reiterating

the frequently repeated error that in

the 1662 Prayer Book service the bride

is "given away". The phrase is given

"to be married". *The Times* mostly

reports marriages in this style using

the phrase "given in marriage".

Yours faithfully,

BERTIE WEBB,

2 Dolphin Close, St John's, Worcester.

October 3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Marriage vows for today: to love and honour, not 'obey'

From the Reverend John R. M. Cook

Sir, It was Montgomery who once told Sandhurst cadets that it was unwise to marry until they had mastered the art of warfare. The Apostle Paul would not have agreed for he reminds us that it is unwise for a man to marry until his attitude is one of self-sacrifice.

Although some did continue to

marry (report, "Brides will not obey" his

wife was a radical departure intro-

duced by Christians and far more

shocking than the idea that a wife

should "obey". Virtually every couple

to whom I have explained this have

gladly accepted the complementarity,

asking only that I should briefly spell

this out to the congregation before the

vows were taken.

In the ancient world the idea that a

husband was required to "love" his

wife was a radical departure intro-

duced by Christians and far more

shocking than the idea that a wife

should "obey". Virtually every couple

to whom I have explained this have

gladly accepted the complementarity,

asking only that I should briefly spell

this out to the congregation before the

vows were taken.

In no way have I perpetuated the

idea of "wifely obedience" as being

distinct from the sacrificial love

required of the husband. The litur-

gical commission needs to leave

"obey" as at least an optional possi-

bility in future marriage liturgies.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL SAWARD

(Canon Treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral),

6 Amen Court, EC4.

October 3.

From the Reverend Canon

Bertie Webb

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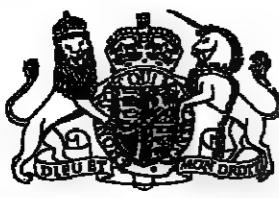
October 3.

From Mr Ronald V. Wells

Sir, Discussion as to whether a bride

should say "obey" reminds me of my

own wedding on August 19, 1939.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 6: Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs was received by the Queen upon his retirement as Private Secretary to The Princess Royal when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh left Heathrow Airport, London this evening to visit Falkland and India.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received at the Airport by the Earl of Airlie KT (Lord Chamberlain), Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal the Lord Sir Michael KCB), High Commissioner of the Republic of India, Mr Javed Iqbal (Acting High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan), Mr Roger Cato (Deputy Managing Director, Heathrow Airport) and Sir Colin Marshall (Chairman, British Airways).

The following are in attendance: The Rt Hon Robin Cook MP (Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), His Excellency Mr David Dain (British High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) and Mrs Dain, the Countess of Dain; The Rt Hon Sir Alan Pugh, MP, Major General Sir Simon Cooper, Mr Robin Juniper, Mr Geoffrey Crawford, Surgeon Captain David Swan RN, Air Commodore The Hon Timothy Elworthy, Lieutenant Commander Toby Wilkinson RN and Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis.

The Lady Elton has succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 6: The Duke of York today visited Cheshire and was received by the Viscount Ashcroft (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire). His Royal Highness this morning

visited environmental projects at Chester Zoo.

The Duke of York later visited Guinness Packaging, Whitehouse Industrial Estate, Runcorn.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Cheshire Fire Brigade Headquarters, Winsford.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 6: The Prince Royal this morning opened new ward accommodation at Blackberry Hill Hospital, Chipping, Bristol, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Bristol (Mr James Tidmarsh).

His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Faculty of Health and Social Care, University of the West of England, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucester Hill, Stapleton, Bristol.

The Prince Royal this afternoon visited BRACE (Bristol Research into Alzheimer's and Care of the Elderly), Blackberry Hill Hospital, Manor Road, Fishponds, Bristol.

Her Majesty later opened Primal Mill Surge, Neathouse Road, Nailsworth, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 6: The Duchess of Gloucester, Chief Patron, Women Caring Trust, this evening attended a Service of Thanksgiving in Lincoln's Inn Chapel, and afterwards attended a Service of Thanksgiving in The Queen's Chapel, Lincoln, to mark the Trust's Twenty Fifth Anniversary.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

October 6: The Ambassador from Japan (His Excellency Mr Hiroaki Fujii) was received by Princess Alexandra this afternoon.

The Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended a private view of the exhibition 'Curves to mark the Seven Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of King Edward III' at the Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2.

Birthdays today

Miss Jenny Abramley, Director of Continuous News, BBC TV, 51; Sir Timothy Ackroyd, actor, 56; Dr John Blatchly, former Head Master, Ipswich School, 55; Mr Christopher Booker, author, 60; Sir Colin Chandler, aviation expert, 58; Mr Joseph Cooper, pianist and broadcaster, 65; Sir Zelman Cowen QC, former Provost, Oriel College, Oxford, 76; Sir Andrew Derbyshire, architect, 74; Professor Harold Dingle, engineer, 77; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Fletcher, 81; Dr Mark Girouard, architectural historian, 66; Lord Glenarthur, Sir B.M.S. Hoban, former Head Master, Harrow School, 76; Mr Terence Hodgkinson, former director, Wallace Collection, 84; Mr Clive James, writer and broadcaster, 58; Mr Thomas Keneally, author, 62; Professor Sir Harold Kroto, FRS, chemist, 58; Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Lang, 84; Miss Yalma Menihem, pianist, 76; Air Marshal Sir Peter Squier, 52; Major-General Julian Thompson, 62; Miss Jayne Torvill, ice skater, 40; The Right Rev Desmond Tutu, former Archbishop of Cape Town, 66; Sir John Walker, Chairman, National Blood Service, 63; Mr Yo Yo Ma, cellist, 42.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will attend the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference and annual meeting at the Metropole Hotel, Brighton, at 10.15; as President, Save the Children Fund, will visit a shop at 74 Buntingford Road, 10.15; as Patron, Riding for the Disabled Association, will visit Hope in the Valley Group, Plumpton College, Plumpton, East Sussex, at 12.45; and as Patron, Sense - the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, will visit a charity shop at 6, St Mary's Mill, Halliford, at 2.30.

Princess Margaret, as Master of the Royal Coat of Arms, will dine with the Benchers of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, at 7.10.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the new extension at Sibsey Free Primary School, Sibsey, Lincolnshire, at 1.30; will open the new technology block at Kirkle Middleton Secondary School, Kirkton, at 2.30; and will open the new tennis centre for the Boston Lawn Tennis Club, Steeple Road, Boston, at 3.30.

It consists of 26 albums containing 3,488 pen, ink and wash designs for collections from winter 1948 to winter 1956. It was an era when colour and extravagance emerged again for the rich after the austerity of the Second World War. Fath's glamorous full-skirted dresses caught the mood and he became one of the precursors of Dior's New Look.

However, the sketches that inspired flamboyant clothes from London and Paris to New York and Hollywood were thought lost. They were rediscovered recently by Susan Major, costume specialist at Christie's South Kensington where they will

be sold for an estimated £200,000 today.

A LOST archive of designs by Jacques Fath, the 'couturier's couturier' and one of the most celebrated dress designers of the immediate post-war period, has been found in London.

During the war Fath, who had begun his fashion career in 1937, was captured and then released, earning the Croix de Guerre. After the war his salon became a training ground for couturiers such as Guy Laroche and Hubert de Givenchy. Fath was as flamboyant as



Two of Fath's ink and wash designs from his most creative period after the war

Lost dress designs of 'couturier's couturier' to be sold at auction

BY JOHN SHAW

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the clothes he designed. He was a master of presentation, who understood the publicity value of parties, masked balls and eccentric behaviour. He was always dressed in a white dinner jacket and conducted his shows with panache.

He showed five white evening dresses to Princess Elizabeth in 1948 and the following year dressed Rita Hayworth for her wedding to Prince Ali Khan. Eva Peron was a customer in 1951. He designed the wardrobe worn by Kay Kendall in the 1953 film classic *Guys and Dolls*.

Gary Cooper and Zsa Zsa Gabor were among guests at his show the same year. Ingrid Bergman was there the following year and so was Marlene Dietrich, who bought two dresses.

After his death in 1954 at the age of 42, when he committed suicide after being diagnosed with leukaemia, his wife continued to run his salon until 1957.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7 1997

Eurotunnel falls behind schedule on vehicles

BY FRASER NELSON

EUROTUNNEL is likely to miss its own performance targets for the third year running, according to official Channel Tunnel traffic figures released yesterday.

The company, which is operating under some £8.7 billion of debt, needs to carry an average 10,200 cars and camper vans each day for the rest of the year to meet its 1997 pledge set during its debt refinancing in May. It now needs a Christmas rush with traffic levels increasing by 78 per cent more than the year's running average of 5,710 private vehicles a day.

Traffic figures published yesterday show that Le Shuttle, Eurotunnel's

vehicle transport division, carried 219,000 private cars in September, bringing the nine-month total to 1.56 million. Its own 1997 target is 2.51 million private vehicles.

Le Shuttle's tourist coach division is even further behind, having carried 41,300 coaches in the nine months, against the 80,000 target set for the whole year. To meet this target, it needs to carry an average 416 a day — more than twice the average of 192 recorded in September.

One leading Eurotunnel analyst said yesterday: "We have come to expect this type of performance, but this time it's all the worse because targets were only published in May.

EUROTUNNEL MISSES TARGETS		
Private vehicles	Nine month total 1,565,000	1997 target 2,51m
Tourist coaches	Nine month total 43,329	1997 target 80,000
Freight lorries	Nine month total 122,921	1997 target 250,000

This does nothing to improve the tarnished image of their own forecasting ability."

Eurotunnel, which last month promised that its operating profit

would exceed £54 million this year, remained adamant that a heavy Christmas rush will make up for the ground lost so far.

A spokeswoman said: "It's early

days yet. We have still got the very busy period of Christmas to come and the bookings are coming thick and fast, so we're confident of reaching the target."

The traffic figures, which show an overall month-on-month decrease of 0.74 per cent for September, come as the company's 175 creditor banks decide whether to approve its proposed £4.4 billion debt-for-equity swap. The company said that traffic levels were a poor indicator of its financial success as it has achieved greater operating efficiencies and found new methods of managing its debts.

Last year it forecast passenger levels of 11 million against an actual

level of seven million. In 1995 it also undershot its forecast of 7.14 million passengers by over two million.

Its Le Shuttle freight division, which reopened when the fire damage was repaired in June, was the strongest performer, carrying 123,000 lorries in the first three months against the six-month target of 250,000.

Eurotunnel owns the tunnel itself and the Le Shuttle trains which leave from Folkestone in Kent. Eurostar, an independent company which runs services from London's Waterloo station, saw its passenger levels rise by 2.7 per cent to 500,000 in September, bringing its running 1997 total to 4.54 million.

Bonuses at BZW anger unions

BY JON ASHWORTH

KEY employees of BZW were being tempted with huge guaranteed bonuses yesterday as banking staff at Barclays announced their intention to strike over poor rates of pay.

Bonuses running to 110 per cent or more of basic salary were being touted in an attempt to encourage BZW staff to stay while a buyer is found for the equities and corporate finance divisions.

It is thought that staff will be told that bonuses, payable next February, are to be brought forward in the hope of winning their loyalty.

Employees who stay can look forward to further windfalls if a buyer materialises — as happened when ING bought Baring. Then, staff were guaranteed a fixed

would-be buyers in a powerful negotiating position.

Confusion over the BZW break-up increases the pressure on Martin Taylor, Barclays chief executive who is grappling with the dispute among banking staff. Members of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) and UNIF, the Barclays staff union, will stage 24-hour walkouts on Friday, October 17 and Monday, October 20 and ban unpaid overtime.

Union leaders are threatening further walkouts in protest at a new performance-related pay scheme. Ed Sweeney, Bifu general secretary, said: "Barclays can afford millions of pounds to pay off top executives in the City. It is time they found the money to settle this dispute." Bill Harrison, who resigned as chief executive of BZW last week, is expected to receive at least £2 million as compensation.

UNIF blamed directors of the bank for the dispute, complaining that a normally co-operative workforce had been driven to industrial action because of "greed-driven management policies". Paul Snowball, the general secretary, accused Barclays of seriously misjudging the mood of its workers. He said: "Many staff have been holding back, thinking the bank would surely come to its senses and make some reasonable changes. Now that it has become apparent that Barclays has no intention of treating its staff fairly, the mood has changed dramatically."

The dispute comes after the introduction in the summer of a new pay and grading scheme that the unions claim will lead to a wage freeze for 25,000 workers. Barclays denies this, saying that the new scheme is a fairer way of rewarding hard-working employees. The unions claim they have merely been seeking modest changes to the new scheme to ensure that all workers receive a pay rise.

amount provided they agreed to stay for at least a year.

Credit Suisse First Boston and Commerzbank are thought to be among front-runners to buy the BZW divisions, which were put up for sale last week. The remainder of BZW will be absorbed into the new Barclays Capital Group, headed by Robert Diamond, Goldman Sachs is advising on the sale process.

The way in which the affair has been handled — throwing divisions on to the market with no obvious buyer — is said to have left BZW staff deeply demoralised and has been greeted with disbelief elsewhere. Guaranteeing huge payments to staff will push up the cost base, leaving



STEPPING UP: Tim Parker, chief executive of C & J Clark, the Somerset-based privately-owned shoe company, which has returned to the black at the half-way stage after last year's wholesale restructuring (Sarah Cunningham

writes). However, Mr Parker gave warning that "the increase of profitability in the first half represents a step change and is unlikely to be sustained at this level for the full year".

Income will be cut in the second half

because of the sale of the successful factory outlet centres to MEPC, while costs are set to increase because of changes in pensions legislation and the export business will feel the impact of the strength of sterling. Pre-tax

post-exceptional profit in the six months to July 31 was £16.2 million compared to a loss a year ago of £20.2 million loss on heavy restructuring provisions. There will be no interim dividend. *Commentary*, page 27

Minister fuels BAe-GEC link talk

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in British Aerospace rose 22p yesterday to an all-time high of £17.51 a share, in response to a call from George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, for consolidation across the European defence and aerospace industries, which appeared to suggest the Government would favour a merger of BAe and GEC.

Publication of the Government's defence review, due early next year, is now expected to indicate a BAe/GEC

merger in the UK could be acceptable. Sources close to the Ministry of Defence believe that the industry framework to be set out in the review will give a strong sign that UK consolidation would not be frowned on. It is thought that the urgency with which the industries and the Government believe European consolidation should press ahead will trigger a strengthening within the UK.

Neither BAe nor GEC

would comment yesterday on a possible merger, although BAe said it held regular talks with other defence companies. Both BAe and GEC welcomed Mr Robertson's call for consolidation.

Earlier Mr Robertson told a London defence and aerospace conference: "Europe's defence and aerospace industry must rationalise or die. The new Government recognises the problem, and is willing to help... we understand that

government has a role to play." The MoD has pledged action to facilitate co-operation across European borders and to help with international collaboration. BAe said: "The need for European consolidation is an urgent one. It is something we have been advocating for some time." A spokesman for GEC said: "Consolidation is overdue. The company is completely in tune with the Government." Sandy Morris, aerospace

analyst with ABN Amro, said: "There is a need for consolidation and it makes sense to start at home. It would be more sensible to get our house in order and then move for greater European interaction."

Europe has worked jointly in the Airbus consortium and in development of the Eurofighter.

Commentary, page 27

Adapt or die, page 29

INDUSTRIAL and manufacturing production both weakened unexpectedly in August, supporting the case for the Bank of England's monetary policy committee to leave base rates on hold when it meets tomorrow and on Thursday.

Industrial output, which includes energy production, fell by 0.4 per cent compared with expectations of a 0.1 per cent decline. Manufacturing activity dipped by 0.1 per cent, against City predictions of a 0.2 per cent rise.

HSBC Markets said that the data provided evidence that although manufacturing is no longer in danger of slipping into recession, the recovery remains fitful. "Accordingly, the figures add to the case for no change in base rates at this week's meeting," it said.

The comparative weakness of August's figures was, however, balanced by considerable upward revisions to both industrial production and manufacturing in July, which left the figures for the two months taken together very close to City expectations.

Michael Saunders, economist with Salomon Brothers, said that underlying trends remain buoyant and that third-quarter growth is likely to match the healthy rates in the first two quarters of the year.

This is relatively impressive given the negative effect of sterling's strength on exporters, and there are still those in the City betting on another rate rise after the November meeting of the Bank committee.

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Equitas surplus of £617m exceeds City expectations

By JON ASHWORTH

EQUITAS, the company set up to take over billions of pounds in questionable insurance claims from the old Lloyd's of London, fared better than expected during its first seven months in business.

The company, which has again seen its accounts heavily qualified by its auditors, Coopers & Lybrand, increased its surplus to £617 million (£588 million) in the seven months to end-March. The ratio of surplus to liabilities rose from 5.6 per cent to 7.1 per cent, buoyed

by strong underlying cash-flows and lower than expected claims payouts.

Headhunters have been appointed to find a replacement for David Newbigging, the Equitas chairman, who is to step down next year. Mr Newbigging, who formerly ran Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong, guided Equitas through its start-up phase, and said that the time was right to hand on to a successor. The search is being led by Whitehead Mann.

France Telecom share price set

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE FRENCH Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, set the price for France Telecom shares at Fr187 (£19.68) yesterday, and proclaimed the partial privatisation a popular success.

The price values the world's fourth-biggest telecommunications operator at Fr187 billion and promises a swift return for investors.



Strauss-Kahn: set price

with analysts predicting shares will start trading at more than Fr200.

M. Strauss-Kahn said the sale would raise about Fr42 billion for the French state and attract more than 2.5 million small investors. That raises the curious prospect of the Socialist-led government, which flagged its hostility to privatisations before winning power in June, presiding over one of the country's most popular capitalist ventures.

M. Strauss-Kahn will float about 20 per cent of the shares on the Paris and New York stock markets, with just under half of this tranche reserved for small shareholders. About 10 per cent of the 115 million shares initially reserved for institutional investors may be made available to the public.

Up to 10 per cent of France Telecom's shares will be offered to Deutsche Telekom, its partner in the Global One alliance.

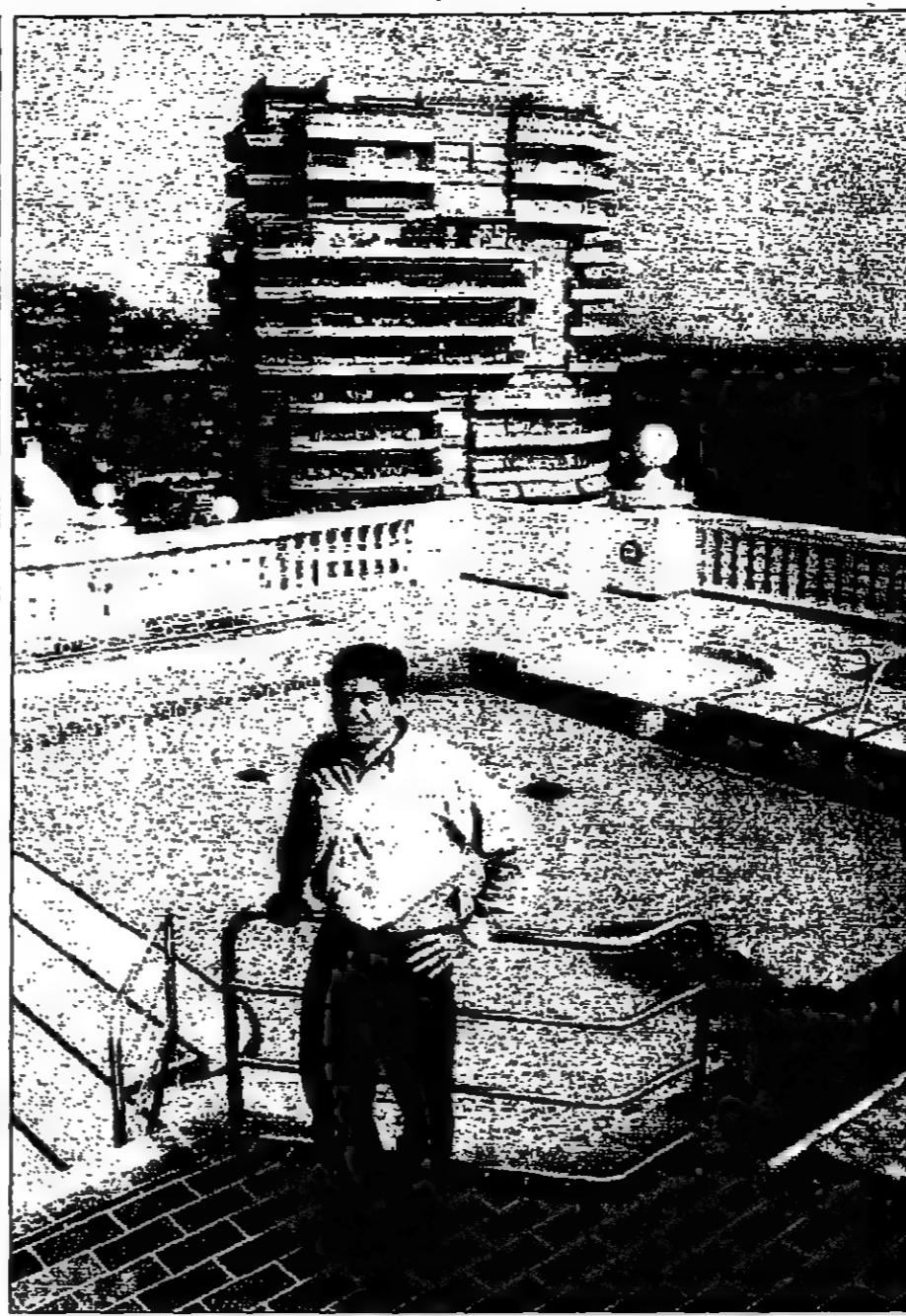
Hailing the encouraging financial trend, Mr Newbigging said: "We have not encountered any major surprises, nor have we identified any external event, trend or emerging issue that we believe would endanger the financial stability of Equitas." The company paid £2.5 billion in claims and operating expenses — lower than forecast — and collected £840 million in reinsurance on paid claims during the period, higher than expected. Investment return totalled £256 million.

Equitas assumed responsibility for 400 Lloyd's syndicates comprising more than 740 open years of accounts, and faces an uphill struggle in assessing the quality of the information it has inherited. The collective liabilities represent perhaps the most difficult claims portfolio ever assembled by one company, with a concentration of asbestos, pollution and health-hazard (APH) claims that will take decades to run off.

For this reason, the Equitas accounts are likely to remain heavily qualified for some time to come. Jane Barker, the Equitas finance director, said steps were being taken to improve the quality of the data, although the nature of the business was such that the accounts would never entirely be free of uncertainty.

Sir David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, said names and clients would be "encouraged" by the progress shown by Equitas. Sir David Berriman, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM), welcomed the results, but cautioned: "Members should note that there is a very long way to go before all uncertainties are removed, and unpleasant surprises remain a possibility for a long time to come."

Equitas hosts an open meeting of names in London next month.



High life: Ashley Levett, relaxing by the pool, will be waiting to see if the SFO drops its inquiry

US drops Winchester suit

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Serious Fraud Office (SFO) may be close to dropping its investigation into Winchester Commodities, the controversial metals trader caught up in the Sumitomo copper scandal.

Pressure on the SFO to

desist came as a group of American investors announced that they were dropping a class action suit against Winchester and its Monaco-based owners, Charlie

and Sumitomo and Hamanaka continues.

The decision to drop US proceedings was welcomed by Mr Vincent, who was formerly managing director of Winchester.

He said: "I am delighted that these allegations have been withdrawn. Not a shred of evidence has ever been produced to support them and their withdrawal was therefore inevitable."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Friendly bid to save Worms from raider

WORMS & COMPAGNIE, the French conglomerate that owns a 40 per cent stake in Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the London-listed paper manufacturer, is at the centre of a Fr30 billion (£3.16 billion) tussle after Italy's Agnelli family and AGF, the French insurance group, announced a friendly bid to counter the hostile raid launched last month by François Pinault. The transaction would leave the Agnelli's in control of the holding company and see AGF take over Worms's Athena insurance unit, which is valued at Fr1.2 billion.

The bid was launched after a weekend of talks with Worms's family shareholders, who own a 22.1 per cent stake. AGF has 7.6 per cent of the capital and the Soneca unit of the Agnelli-controlled Ifil Holding has 20 per cent. AGF said its cash and shares bid valued Worms shares at Fr465.36 and the holding at between Fr30.36 billion and Fr33.06 billion. M. Pinault, who controls the retail giant Pinault Printemps Redoute, offered Fr410 per share in the biggest hostile bid ever in France. On Friday, Worms' supervisory board rejected the hostile bid and announced a 55 per cent rise in interim profits to Fr1.2 billion.

More directors banned

A RECORD number of company directors were disqualified over the past year. A total of 1,219 directors were banned — 179 after being convicted of company-related offences. The Department of Trade and Industry looked into complaints about 1,297 firms, resulting in 762 potential cases for investigation, of which 252 were proceeded with. Nigel Griffiths, the Trade Minister, said: "Too many members of the public are failing prey to unscrupulous directors and too many honest traders are being undercut by dishonest ones."

FedEx buys parcel firm

FEDERAL EXPRESS has agreed to acquire Caliber System, a parcels service, for \$2.4 billion (about £1.49 billion), it was announced yesterday. FDX Corp, the new company, which will employ 17,000 worldwide, is aiming to become a \$15 billion powerhouse in global transportation and logistics with two independent networks serving the express and non-express markets through five business units. Caliber's Ohio headquarters will close, and the 150 employees there will be offered positions at FDX Corp or a subsidiary.

C&W's American move

CABLE & WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, is opening a regulatory office in Washington to handle any group lobbying or negotiations with the Federal Communications Commission. C&W said yesterday that the aim of setting up the office was to ensure that the company was able to speak with one voice in Washington. It played down reports that the move meant that the company was once again thinking of joining any particular partnership in the US market.

O&R expansion plan

OWEN & ROBINSON, the fashion retail group, is planning to open two stores on prime sites in Manchester and Glasgow under the Capitol Roma name. Owen & Robinson recently merged with Capitol Roma, the menswear fashion retailer, and operates the Foothold chain of shoe stores. The group has 60 stores in total. The new 904 sq m Manchester site has four stores, while the Glasgow store covers 1,115 sq m on two levels. Both will open on December 1. The group plans to open further stores around the country.

TJ Hughes prosters

TJ HUGHES, the discount department store operator, provided further evidence of strong consumer demand yesterday, with doubled interim pre-tax profits of £753,000. The chain, which is based in the North West of England, enjoyed like-for-like sales growth of 6.8 per cent in the six months to July 31. Margins were maintained. The company is to pay an interim dividend on December 31 of 9.97p, compared with 8.48p last time. Shares in TJ Hughes rose by 2.5p, to 103p, yesterday.

Andrews Sykes ahead

ANDREWS SYKES GROUP, the supplier of air conditioning, pumping and heating equipment, enjoyed a recovery in interim profits to £15.05 million, from £3.4 million, in the half-year to June 29. The improvement was helped by the absence of the more extreme weather conditions that blighted the first half of 1996. Earnings were 21.1p a share, up from 14.2p; and the interim dividend is lifted to 5p a share from 3.5p. Turnover was little changed at £27.4 million, compared with £26.1 million.

IAWS £46m purchase

IAWS, the agri-foods business based in the Republic of Ireland, is buying Cuisine de France, a supplier of French breads, confectionery and savoury products, for a maximum profit-related consideration of Ir£151 million (£46 million). Although the business is also based in Ireland, it has a growing presence in the UK, which accounts for 36 per cent of turnover. Cuisine de France earned pre-tax profits of Ir£4.1 million in the year to February 1. The existing management team will remain with the enlarged group.

Alwaleed adds to hotels

PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TAIAL, the Saudi billionaire, is expanding his hotel interests with the purchase of a 30 per cent stake in the Swiss company Moewenpick Hotels and Resorts for an undisclosed sum. He will also forge an alliance with Moewenpick AG, which owns the remaining 70 per cent. Prince Alwaleed already has a substantial hotel portfolio. Moewenpick operates almost 40 hotels with more than 7,000 rooms in ten countries. There are plans for more hotels in Germany, the Middle East, Far East and North Africa.

September car sales roar ahead

By KEVIN EASON MOToring Editor

THE surge in new car sales shows no sign of abating, with registrations rising by 16.7 per cent in September.

Carmakers had feared an autumn lull after record sales in the vital August market, but figures issued yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed their worries were unnecessary.

Registrations in September were 160,739, up from 138,059 in September of last year. Ford led the market, with its Escort, Mondeo and Fiesta the three bestsellers.

Overall sales so far this year are up 7.2 per cent, year on year, at 1.77 million, with the industry looking for one of its best years ever. Ernie Thompson, the society's chief executive, said that the September boost had stirred optimism.

The ten best-selling cars in September were: 1. Ford Escort (10,167); 2. Ford Mondeo (9,260); 3. Ford Fiesta (8,190); 4. Vauxhall Vectra (6,969); 5. Vauxhall Astra (6,403); 6. Vauxhall Corsa (5,478); 7. Peugeot 306 (4,592); 8. Rover 200 (4,340); 9. Renault Megane (4,326); 10. Peugeot 106 (4,022).

Under an agreement dating back to the time when LVMH and Guinness took cross-holdings in each other, LVMH has the option to buy Guinness's interests in all drinks distribution joint ventures in the event of a change of control or takeover. It also has the option to repurchase at a discount Guinness's 34 per cent stake in LVMH's Moët Hennessy arm.

The panel is comprised of three senior French judges, Serge Lazareff, Mathieu de Boisséson, and Bernard Hanouf.

Guinness control put to test

By DOMINIC WALSH

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, yesterday renewed his assault on the proposed merger between Guiness and Grand Metropolitan by announcing the appointment of a panel of arbitrators to rule on the "control event".

The arbitration process will decide whether the £2.4 billion merger between the two British companies constitutes, in practice, a change of control at Guiness. GrandMet shareholders will end up with 53 per cent of the combined group.

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Occidental pays \$3.6bn as US sells oilfield

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

Occidental Petroleum, the US oil group, yesterday bought the Elk Hills oilfield for \$3.65 billion (£2.4 billion) in the largest privatisation in American history.

Elk Hills, near Bakersfield, California, has more than 1,000 producing wells on 47,000 acres and also includes some gas reserves. Daily production runs to 60,000 barrels of oil and 400 million cubic feet of natural gas.

About 200 oil companies, mainly American, bid for Elk Hills. BP said that it did not because its Northern American interests are focused on Alaska.

The US Department of Energy declined to name failed bidders. Elk Hills was set aside at the turn of the century as a source of oil for the US Navy.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.33	2.18	0.602
Austria Sch	27.00	26.50	3.294
Belgium Fr	6.85	6.75	0.968
Canada \$	2.330	2.101	1.189
Denmark Kr	0.895	0.814	0.800
Germany Dm	11.41	10.95	0.625
Japan Yen	102.00	99.50	0.720
France Fr	4.75	4.55	1.185
Germany Dm	9.25	8.95	0.780
Italy Lira	128	121	0.295
Ireland £	1.16	1.07	0.521
Italy Lira	5.95	5.81	0.285
Japan Yen	121.28	119.70	0.757

For small denominations bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Dm denotes Deutsche Mark. Fr denotes French franc. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS also appears on page 32

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GENERAL

whatever the message - say it with MAXON EASYSPEECH

For years GEC and British Aerospace have danced warily around each other. The commercial logic in favour of the pair joining forces is inescapable, but establishing terms that would suit both sides has so far proved impossible. Lord Weinstock, as ever, was determined to win himself a bargain, but in Sir Richard Evans he met a worthy match. The result was stalemate.

But now may be the time to re-open negotiations. Yesterday's call from George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, for the defence industry to consolidate was being interpreted in some quarters as a clear signal that there would be no regulatory barriers put up against the merger.

Mr Robertson's starting point was the need for European defence companies to combine against the might of the giants that have been created in the United States. When Boeing and McDonnell Douglas get together, French, Italian or British businesses have every reason to quake. In the defence business, small — a relative term — and vulnerable does not win sympathy, let alone business.

So Mr Robertson advocates that European firms should work together, as on the Airbus project. But while this must be the way forward, a useful first step might be to strengthen the British players with the rationalisation that the Defence Secretary seeks. There are three British

companies making armoured cars: GKN, Alvis and Vickers. They might stand a better chance of beating the enemy if they could fight together.

Similarly, putting together GEC and British Aerospace would create a British defence force that could not be ignored. The personality clash that marred discussions before has been removed. Although Lord Weinstock is still to be found at GEC's headquarters, his presidential title is but honorary. The soon-to-be Lord Simpson, his successor as managing director, would bring a different approach to negotiations. And if the sub-text to Mr Robertson's speech is being correctly inferred, such negotiations would have Government blessing. This indicates that previous paranoia about the risks to Government of narrowing its choice of national defence contractors has given way to a sense of reality about the need to compete internationally.

And there is no harm in dealing with our potential European partners. George Simpson has already experienced the difficulties of trying to work with a French defence industry in which the Government pulls the

A united fighting force



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

strings. His suggestion that he might buy Thomson was swiftly rebuffed. Now thoughts of privatising that business appear to have been shelved. With awesome gallic pragmatism, political objections to privatisation have been overcome sufficiently to make the flotation of France Telecom a remarkable success, the proceeds of which may well be used to bolster Thomson while retaining it in public ownership.

They were just obeying orders

Press rehearsals are designed to expose rough edges so that the show will be right on the night. So there need be no dismay just because the 3,000 traders who put the Stock Exchange's new electronic order-driven trading system through its paces on Saturday produced such bizarre

results. But this did make once-arcane questions so vivid that many will wonder whether the change is an advance in efficiency or just kowtowing to cultural imperialism.

On the day, action in the 100 top stocks led to trade being suspended in one or other of them 438 times when the price had moved 10 per cent or more. Having been dragged in to test the system, some were minded to test it to destruction. Even so, it will be a revelation to many investors that trading suspensions are intrinsic to the new system, albeit a rarity in "normal" times. More immediately worrying were vicious strategies adopted to catch the unwary. Leaving absurd orders in the system just in case someone makes a typing error and falls for your trap has convinced traders that the luncheonette bevy will have to go the way of the City lunch. It must also be hoped that guaranteed bonuses do not encourage

EZW traders to relax their attention. Lying as a snake in the grass to ambush the innocent is not cricket. This tactic, along with others to engineer suspensions artificially, makes it dangerous to put in buy or sell orders at "best price". The market might become even less friendly to small investors, whose orders are often packaged that way.

Such concerns are unlikely to dominate meetings between investment banks and the exchange to assess the tests. As with monetary union, there is by now an institutional drive to get things moving on October 20 and therefore not waste time on refinements. Much of the system worked pretty well in the simulation and similar systems operate from New York to Zurich. The key lesson of practice is that order-driven trading should not be extended to the next 250 stocks without convincing proof that it is beneficial, and should not be used for the remaining

doubly so when the family is steeped in Quaker tradition, although this did not prevent some nasty fighting among the various factions.

That infighting has subsided under the new management, encouraged perhaps by the appearance of profits and the real prospect of flotation.

The shareholders in another family-owned company must be watching Clarks improving fortunes carefully. It seems that the Littlewoods family has also agreed to stop its feuding and has rallied hopefully behind the new management. They, too, appear to have dropped any pretence being a paternalistic employer.

As the company dramatically scales down its retail business, selling some stores to Marks & Spencer and letting out chunks of others, hundreds of jobs will vanish. Dividends have triumphed over idealism.

By any measure

MAY I suggest "If it's there, measure it" as a new slogan for the Office for National Statistics. Or even "It might not be there but let's measure it anyway." There is something endearing about its attempt to put a value on our household chores and its frank admission that it has no idea what it is. There is lots of entertainment value on the way to its non-conclusion but relief, too, that the ONS describes the exercise as inexpensive.

Incentive plan 'used to falsify QMH profit'

By DOMINIC WALSH

FORMER directors of Queens Moat Houses used an incentive management scheme to falsify profit figures and paint a positive picture of the company's worsening financial performance, the High Court was told yesterday.

The controversial scheme, under which some hotel managers paid an agreed annual fee to QMH head office and pocketed any additional profits, is at the centre of a case for unfair dismissal brought by John Bairstow, former chairman of QMH, and three other former directors.

The four men, all of whom were sacked after trading in the company's shares was suspended in April 1993, were accused yesterday of misleading the market to expect profits of between £80 million and £85 million when they knew this could not be achieved. The accounts produced after their departure showed losses of

£104.4 million after a £922 million property write-down.

Michael Burton, QC, for QMH, said the problem with the incentive management scheme was that the annual fee paid by hotels was booked to group profits in the year the contract was signed, even though the money was normally paid in 13 monthly instalments in the following year. This "front-loading" led to the double-counting of profits from hotels transferring from the management to the incentive scheme.

The mischief of that, Mr Burton said, "is that if you have a hotel which is the managed sector from January through to October, and then 12 months' worth of next year in the form of the incentive fee, you thus get yourself 20 months' profit in one year." He alleged that hotels were deliberately signed up to the scheme towards the year-end to bolster current-year profits.

Even when the recession had made it difficult for some managers to pay the annual fee, the company had often persuaded them to renew their contracts so the fees could again be booked to profits.

He further claimed that to avoid profits being too heavily weighted towards the second half, interim results had been boosted by the addition of a proportion of the front-loaded fee the company expected later in the year, completely falsifying the profit figure for the year, Mr Burton added.

The case continues.

By DOMINIC WALSH

Kingsbury receives approach

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

KINGSBURY, the quoted furniture retailer, yesterday said that it has received an approach that may lead to a bid at close to the current share price.

The company, trading as Kingsbury Interiors, Wades and Harrison Gibson, has 76 branches in the UK and it also has three stores on the Continent.

Analysts said that a bidder was likely to be a big unquoted furniture retailer looking to back into the stock market, or a quoted one such as Essex Furniture, Uno or Rosebys. DFS is thought unlikely to be attracted by Kingsbury's small stores.

Kingsbury's shares fell 8p to 165p yesterday, valuing it at about £43 million.

Sinclair to launch health insurance

By FRASER NELSON

SINCLAIR Montrose Healthcare, which is opening walk-in medical centres in railway stations and supermarkets, has joined forces with Norwich Union in preparation for a new health insurance market.

The company, which recently raised £6.5 million to fund its expansion, is considering offering policies with Norwich Union covering routine GP visits and vaccinations. The move, which was agreed before last week's reports that the Government is considering levying charges for routine appointments with GPs, will be boosted by the addition of a proportion of the front-loaded fee the company expected later in the year, completely falsifying the profit figure for the year, Mr Burton added.

The case continues.

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL POWER is to build a £450 million gas-fired station that can produce enough electricity for two million people in a move that signals another blow for the coal industry.

Building the station at Staythorpe, Nottinghamshire, will provide about 1,000 jobs. Construction will start next

year. The combined cycle gas turbine power station will be built on the site of two former coal-fired stations. National Power said the plant would contribute to its drive to be the UK's lowest cost electricity generator while continuing to produce cleaner power.

The Department of Trade and Industry currently has

more than 20 applications for gas-fired stations and the coal industry fears the "dash for gas" will sound the death knell for UK coal. Generators have turned increasingly to gas as its price has fallen and environmental pressures have become greater.

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Restaurants group finds right ingredients for expansion

Chez Gérard spread on menu

By DOMINIC WALSH

GROUP CHEZ Gérard, the restaurant group, is to open at least nine restaurants over the next three years.

Neville Abraham, chairman and chief executive, said the main focus for expansion would be the group's Livebait fish restaurants and the successful Chez Gérard formula. However, he did not rule out further "signature" or individual restaurants along the lines of Scotts or the St Quentin restaurants acquired in May.

The fifth Chez Gérard

opened recently at Bishopton, in the City of London, and Mr Abraham envisages reaching double figures within three years, at a total cost of at least £4 million.

A further £3 million will be used to expand the Livebait concept, acquired in February, and the group's established Cafe Fish formula, to be renamed Livebait's Cafe Fish. The second Livebait, along the lines of the original restaurant at Waterloo, will open in Covent Garden, probably before Christmas.

Mr Abraham said the group

would continue to seek sites exclusively in London, though eventually expansion throughout the UK and even the Continent was likely.

Yesterday Group Chez Gérard unveiled a 6.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.04 million in the year to June 29, on turnover up 17 per cent to £19.2 million. In the second half of the year sales growth excluding acquisitions was up 20 per cent (22.5 per cent). Earnings rose to 12.4p (10.8p), and a final dividend of 2.2p will be paid on December 9, making a 3.2p (2.8p) total.



Abraham: seeking sites

Mr Abraham said the group

LINKLATORS & PAINES
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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Profit-takers decide to cash in after big gains

EQUITIES and government securities both bear a ragged retreat as profit-takers decided to cash in after recent strong gains.

Talk about mounting public opposition to the single currency also took its toll of sentiment, although a positive start to trading on Wall Street last night enabled share prices in London to halve earlier losses.

The FTSE 100 index, which rose almost 2 per cent last week, came under pressure first thing but managed to hold the 5,300 level — if only by the slimmest of margins.

At one stage it was down almost 63 points before rallying to reduce the deficit at the close to 30.8 at 5,300.0. Turnover was a lackluster 676 million shares.

A subdued set of industrial production numbers had already been widely expected and was quickly discounted. But with the inflation numbers due out today before the latest meeting of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, most investors decided caution was the better part of valour.

The absence of any fresh news after WorldCom's \$30 billion bid for MCI, left British Telecom 10p lower at 458.4p as 38 million shares were traded.

Bid hopes have taken a bit of a knock at Redland, with the price dropping 7.5p to 246.4p. Only last week Rudolph Agnew, chairman, told the City that the fall in the company's share price had left it vulnerable to an unwanted takeover. The shares have come back from a peak of 376p so far this year, with the strong pound and tough trading conditions in Germany taking their toll.

The absence of any fresh move left T&N, a takeover target, 5.5p down at 244p. Federal Mogul, the US automotive parts group, has made an offer of 235p a share, but the absence of any counter-bid has disappointed the speculators. The current terms value T&N at £1.2 billion.

Hopes of a takeover at Diploma have been scuppered by news of a link-up with Sonopar Electronique International and Marshall Industries in electronic component distribution. The shares fell 23.5p to 268.5p.

Quality Software stood out with a jump of 15p to 255p after Salomon Brothers, the US



Martin Craddock, the chairman of LinCAT, left, and Paul Bouscarin, chief executive, saw the share price improve

offer will be made close to the current price. The group carries a price tag of £44 million.

JJB Sports shrugged off recent weakness to put a gain of 15.5p to 499p before interim figures today. These are expected to show pre-tax profits climbing from £7.2 million to £10 million, although some estimates have been pitched as high as £13 million. LinCAT

Group responded to better than expected full-year figures showing profits 50 per cent higher with a rise of 11.5p to 335p. The 24 per cent increase in the dividend also cheered the market. LinCAT, which makes and installs bar equipment to the leisure and hospitality industry, is currently installing all seven new bars at the National Theatre as part of a major refurbishment programme. Martin Craddock, chairman, is confident about prospects for the current year.

Fine Art Development advanced 36.5p to 182.5p as the demerger of Creative Publishing, its subsidiary, was completed. Creative Publishing started life at 136.5p and touched a high for the day of 173.5p before ending at 172.5p.

On Friday, Fine Art closed at 323p and the combined closing price for both companies last night suggests a rise of 11.7 per cent. Peel Hunt, the broker, says the value of the combined shares should be nearer 450p.

Buckland Investments made an encouraging start to trading on the AIM after a placing at 15p. The price opened at 16.5p and ended at the best of the day with a rise of 2.5p to 17.5p.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London opened lower reflecting the late sell-off in US Treasury bonds on Friday. Differing reports about Britain's entry into the single European currency muddied the waters further.

One report suggested open hostility by a majority of the British public to joining a single currency, while another from French Finance Ministry officials suggested Britain would join the first wave at the start of 1999.

In the event, European bond markets outperformed London. In the future pit, the December series of the Long Gilts finished 52.5p lower at £120.50, as a total of 77,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 dropped 15.5p to £117.50, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks off at £103.50.

□ **NEW YORK:** Shares found firmer footing in late-morning trade and the Dow Jones industrial average rebounded to rise 43.47 points to 8,082.05 at midday.

Technical problems at our suppliers of Liffe options have prevented publication of some prices. We apologise.

THE oil price endured a rollercoaster ride as the speculators poured in. North Sea Brent crude jumped 70 cents to \$21.80 a barrel before closing 81 cents down. Renewed friction between Iran and Iraq has prompted the US to send the aircraft carrier Nimitz into the Gulf. The speculators believe supplies could be affected.

Jurjen Lunshof, of Credit Lyonnais Laing, takes a more sceptical view: "Yes it's all very exciting, but it doesn't square up. Inventories have already been built-up. The crude price

appears to be high enough for the time being."

He forecasts a gradual increase in prices in the next two to three months as winter sets in. "Remember! High stock levels helped to offset the price hike we saw last year."

It looks unlikely that the oil companies will enjoy any significant benefit. He says BP, up 6p to 930p, is not fully valued. Neither is Enterprise Oil, 3p easier at 691.5p, which may benefit from drilling reports due soon. Shell, 4.5p off at 480p, is fully valued along with Esso, 5.5p down at 283.5p.

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Quality Software stood out with a jump of 15p to 255p after Salomon Brothers, the US

share price is most unlikely to go up, especially against the background of a strong pound and cheap coal imports. Yesterday John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, reinforced the gloom for RJB when he refused to discuss the possibility of talks on the future of the coal industry, which still employs 47,000 miners.

The Department of Trade and Industry currently has more than 20 applications for gas-fired stations, the most it has ever had on its desks and a sign of more problems to come at RJB.

At 296p, unchanged yesterday, the shares are heading back towards the 250p they were sold at and a long way away from the 500p peak reached in 1996. Investors should steer clear of the stock until it becomes clear how much RJB will get for its coal from next year.

□ **UKRAINE:** JKK, Ukrzakoprom is now shareholder, customer and partner. The Ukrainian

share has every reason to deliver shareholder value to JKK before they give up the stake. JKK now has a far greater chance of securing lucrative new supply contracts in the region. What the company needs is a chairman who can build on its political influence while trying to create some kind of stability in Eastern Europe.

JKK is in a curiously strong position; with Rammco, its defunct sibling, desperately trying to wipe off its face. Western investors may feel uneasy with a state-owned Ukrainian business holding a 22 per cent stake in their company, considering that one of JKK's problems was getting the locals to cough up for its supplies. However, sleeping with the enemy is often advantageous.

At JKK, Ukrzakoprom is now shareholder, customer and partner. The Ukrainian

share. The company was

disappointingly vague yesterday about the financial performance of Blazer, which it bought from Storehouse last year. But the chain should

have potential — perhaps for mall order in conjunction with an established mall order firm, — particularly since its design director from

the more stylish pre-storehouse days have returned.

Blazer is trading at 16 times earnings, which puts it on a slight discount to the sector. It has enough potential to justify a sector rating Buy.

□ **SINCLAIR:** Montrose Healthcare is on a roll, trading at 26 times the 9.47p of earnings per share expected next year. This makes Sinclair a "jam tomorrow" company.

Giants such as Bupa are looking over their shoulder with the firepower to compete if the private primary healthcare market is set alight by NHS reforms.

Sinclair is bagging the best sites. Its Victoria station clinic, with its £7-a-shot travel vaccinations, is an attractive prototype. If this could be reproduced 26 times, the shares would be worth a great deal more than they are today.

But London is a different market. Will the good citizens of Sheffield feel as comfortable about visiting the doctors on the way back from doing the shopping? Norwich Union's approach is to wait and see; it has paid for its position but is not committing another penny in any joint venture until the ambitious roll-out plan shows signs of success. Shareholders should do likewise.

□ **BRITISH FUNDS:** The

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□ **SINCLAIR:** Montrose</p

Advertisers look beyond sex, booze and football

Sex, booze and football. For the past two decades advertisers have relied on these magic ingredients to sell products to young men. But they no longer reflect men's role in society. The rise in female power and women's increasing financial independence have destroyed many of the old stereotypes. Young women don't just want to be impressed by their boyfriend's car — they want to buy their own.

As men struggle to find a new role, marketers are asking whether their advertising hits the spot with the 18 to 25-year-olds. It is not a market they can afford to miss because young men have high disposable incomes compared with husbands and fathers, and

are more receptive to marketing messages than someone older and more confident.

The changing face of young men will be examined today at a one-day conference, Men Behaving Differently, organised by Marketing magazine.

As men adjust to the rise in female power, advertisers are struggling to find a winning formula to replace sex, booze and football. So far their attempts have not been impressive. A popular current campaign is the portrayal of men having to choose between a product and a woman. The product wins every time.

McDonald's, KFC and Walkers Crisps are just a few of the advertisers to choose this route.

Trevor Beattie, creative director of GGT, the advertising agency, says that the approach is overused and totally unrealistic. "There's one ad claiming that men would rather have a chicken drumstick than a sauna with Ulrika Jonsson. Can we please have advertising that portrays the way the world is men and women get on together."

It is a view backed by Rita Clifton, vice-chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi, another speaker at today's conference. "In a world where men feel insecure, it is easy to understand why advertisers want to hark back to what men used to feel secure about. The idea of men getting their own back on women seems rather pathetic."

Research by Saatchi & Saatchi



REAGAN'S
SHOWDOWN

a car accident to the husband who faints when his wife gives birth.

So what can companies do when their whole marketing ethos has been based around lad culture? Beer marketers have been hit hard as a mild bit of sexism went down quite well in the past. One particular TV commercial for Castlemain XXXX was a classic case. Two Australian men load up their truck with cans of lager and add a couple of bottles of sherry for the Shetlands, but discard them when the truck becomes overloaded. In a world where young women match men pint for pint this is neither funny nor relevant.

Neither can beer advertisers appeal to the "sod women, the boys are going down the pub"

said Damian Blackden of Zenith Media.

There is still one ingredient that sells these magazines: sex. While sales of beer to young men decline and football becomes more family-oriented, sex is the one marketing approach that remains from the old era. But the use of sex has changed. These days it tends to be warmer, funnier and treats women as equals.

Saatchi & Saatchi's research shows that women are embracing their many different roles whereas men are anxious about the transition. But they will eventually come to terms with the changes. And companies that recognise these new men are far more likely to succeed.

Big guns in Europe's defence industries told to adapt or die

Michael Evans on a mission to compete in the face of US military supremacy

Consolidation or die. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, has now added his voice to the familiar Cassandra-like warnings given in recent years to the British and European defence industries that unless they rationalise, merge and consolidate they will find it impossible to compete in the international market against the Leviathan corporations in the United States.

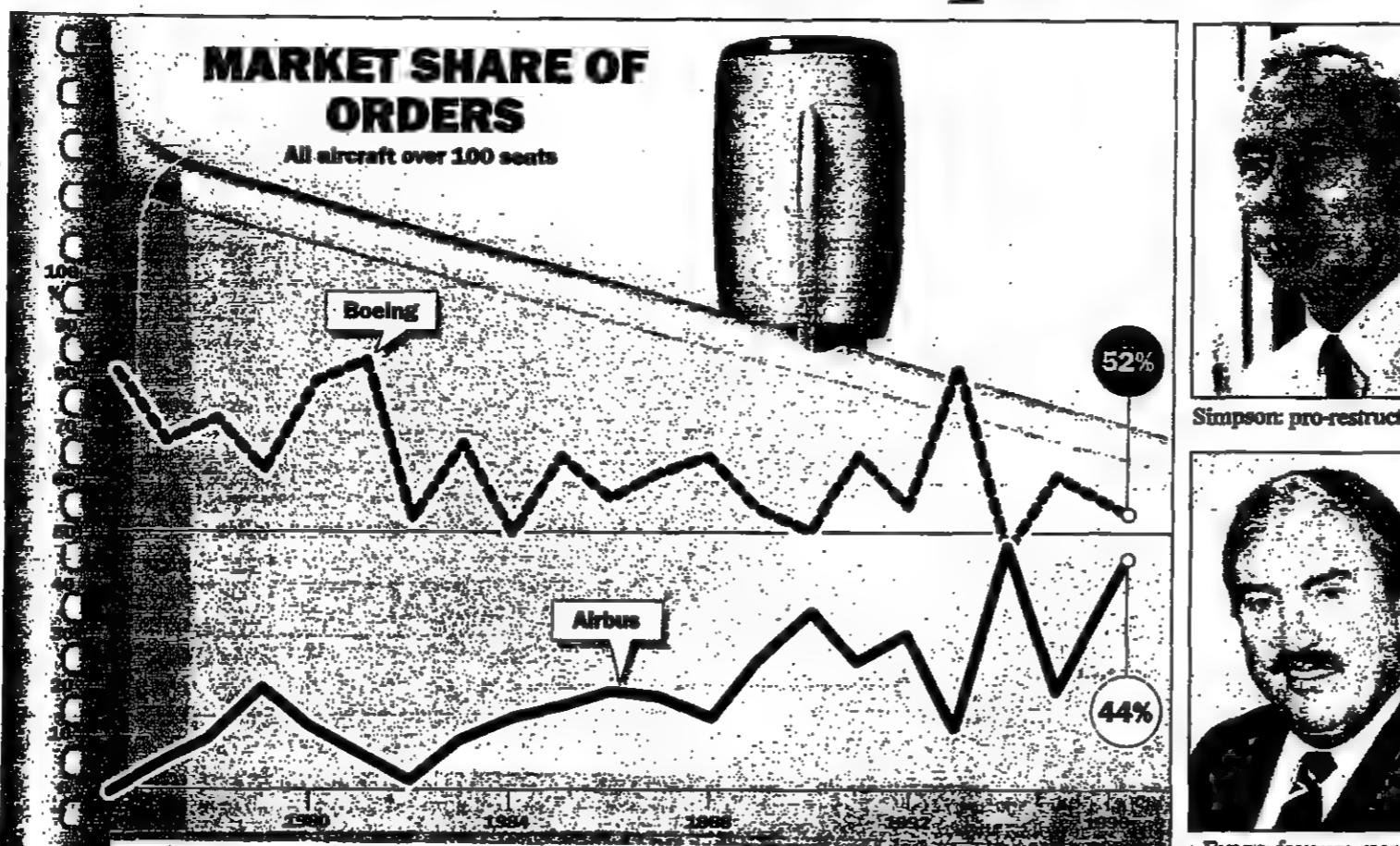
Since the defence industry in Britain is fully aware of the urgent need to take on the US giants in order to survive in the increasingly competitive export market, Mr Robertson's warning at a seminar in London organised by the Defence Industries Council, will no go unheeded.

The big guns in the British defence industry, such as Sir Richard Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, John Weston, joint managing director of BAE, and George Simpson, the new managing director of General Electric Company, have been advocating radical restructuring.

Sir Richard wants to forge mergers across Europe and, in the long term, he predicts the development of global defence companies. He sees it as his job to ensure that British Aerospace is still a big enough player to survive the changes that will inevitably come in the next 20 to 30 years.

The problem for the largest European defence companies is that the US has beaten them to it. The American giants moved so rapidly to forge seemingly unbeatable alliances that European partnership efforts have looked weak by comparison.

The result is that three or four American defence companies are now able to offer to the domestic and export market a complete range of military equipment, and with overheads and manning levels



cut back drastically, their products will be on sale at highly competitive prices...

Mr Robertson offered Government help to facilitate a similar restructuring throughout the European defence industry, but the main thrust for change will have to come from the defence companies themselves if they are going to compete with the Americans.

Airbus Industrie is often put forward as a prime example of how the major European aerospace companies have developed a successful partnership to take on the Americans in the civilian airline business. In 25 years, Airbus has "gone from nothing" to 44 per cent of the world sales of aircraft with more than 100 seats.

Yet even Airbus has been slow to adapt to the viciously competitive market by delaying internal restructuring that would produce a more streamlined and efficient organisation. Airbus has been a partnership of British Aerospace, Dasa, Aerospatiale and Cass. It was only comparatively recently that agreement was reached to turn Airbus into a single company managing the

total assets. This will be achieved by 1999 and the intention is to increase the share of the market.

"We've got to get to 50 per cent or die," one aerospace source said.

The \$40 billion Eurofighter combat aircraft programme is another example where European collaboration has

worked successfully but at a price. Again, four companies from four countries are involved, with each having a share of the work.

Inevitably, that involves duplication of effort, separate production lines in each country and all the political problems that arise from a marriage of industrial convenience where each partner has different domestic requirements and sensitivities.

There is little that the Government can do to force through rapid changes, other than to facilitate international agreements that can allow mergers or joint ventures.

There was nothing in Mr Robertson's speech yesterday

on the part of the Labour Government to see a merger of Britain's two giant defence

companies, BAE and GEC. The two companies still talk almost daily of a possible merger but there is no sign of a breakthrough, except that Mr Simpson and Sir Richard look more compatible bedfellows than GKN, Alvis and Vickers.

One of the major obstacles to European mergers on a grand scale is France, which still hangs on desperately to its largely state-run and over-manned defence industry.

The potentially fruitful merger of GEC and Thomson-CSF, the French electronics company, was blocked by the previous government and the Socialist administration of Lionel Jospin has also balked at privatising Thomson and approving a marriage with GEC.

Yet the best way forward for Europe would be to forge multi-company mergers. A highly competitive grouping, for example, might include BAE with Dasa, Aerospatiale, Cass of Spain, Alenia of Italy and Saab of Sweden.

Once heavy-weight European corporations have been formed, the onus would be on European Governments to award major contracts to these new companies to ensure their survival against their American

rivals. This is anathema to those who advocate strict competition but unless some preference is given to newly formed European conglomerates, they might never get off the ground. The previous Government took this on board when last year it awarded the RAF conventionally armed stand-off missile contract to a joint bid by BAE and Marconi, the French firm, instead of McDonnell Douglas.

The solution for the future, however, is for giant trans-Europe defence companies and their US rivals to create partnerships. It is now standard practice for American companies to link up with British firms when bidding for a UK contract. This way the Americans are not locked out of Europe, and the British companies benefit from advanced US technology and from worldwide export sales.

In the future only the big boys are going to survive. Mr Robertson's warning serves as a final reminder to the hesitant defence bosses in Britain and Europe that they may have only a short time to make their long-term survival decisions.

BUSINESS LETTERS

The wisdom of university funding

From Mr Brian Whittingham

Sir, Graham Seearjeant (Business News, October 2) adds his wisdom to the debate about the Labour Government's intention to make university education less freely available by the introduction of fees and the abolition of maintenance grants.

Historically, those intelligent and diligent enough to graduate generally obtained higher initial remuneration and accelerated promotion, thereby automatically contributing higher taxes.

If the universities are unable to meet their financial objectives, they should first of all address major weaknesses in the present system of tertiary education: academic entry requirements seem to have become far too lax and a significant minority in arts and miscellaneous studies faculties are able with impunity to waste time and taxpayers' money, only to fail with ignominy in their final years. All should face rigorous examination at the end of the first year at least, as do science undergraduates.

Student loans are obnoxious

for several reasons: they only

New buses are typical of increased investment

From the Director-General, Confederation of Passenger Transport UK

Sir, The order for a hundred new low-floor double-deck buses will be welcomed by Londoners — but they are by no means the first new double-deckers in the privatised fleet as your correspondent claims ("Trinity wins £12 million bus order", October 3).

In the last year alone, over 300 have been placed in ser-

vice around the capital. A typical example of the new, high-quality vehicles that commercialisation of the industry has brought about.

Yours faithfully,

VERONICA PALMER, Director-General, Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, Imperial House, 15-19 Kingsway, WC2.

Letters that are intended for publication in the Business and Finance section of The Times should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent by fax on 0171-782 5122.

I THINK I MAY HAVE BEEN SACKED.

ambiguous **n.** 1 person who writes the wrong word equally well with the right and left hands 2 words in a contract which have an obscure or double meaning.

constructive dismissal **v.** 1 a mass firing of modern architects (after *monstrous carbuncle*) 2 indirect dismissal.

compensation **n.** 1 that pleasurable feeling when the cheque arrives in the post 2 payment made by someone to cover the cost of damage or hardship which has been caused.

mediation **n.** 1 gathering of camera crews outside celebrity's home (after *minor indiscretion*) 2 attempt by a third party to make the two sides in an argument agree.

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Any other name

IN A couple of weeks the agony of waiting will be over. Howard Davies will announce the name of the new City regulator, and a nation's hearts can start to beat again. Farewell super-SIB, which is what we have all been calling it, and goodbye NewRo, the name the various regulators being shoe-horned into the new body have been trying to make us use. But I hear the name has been chosen, and the front-runner is ... the FINANCIAL REGULATORY GROUP!



"With all the train delays, he was finding it difficult to get to work on time."



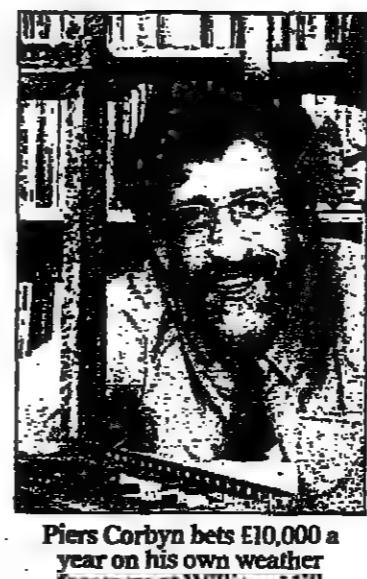
IN NICE to know they are keeping their spirits up at BZW. Yesterday was the start of the roadshows to sell Telecom Italia, the biggest ever privatisation outside Japan and worth £15 billion. BZW is the global co-ordinator and decided to make it a "thematic day" at Canary Wharf. As opposed to Friday, which was a traumatic day, I suppose. The menu in the staff canteen was adjusted accordingly — "we've got pasta coming out of our ears," said Charles Kavan-Taylor, who heads the Telecom Italia team. There were plenty of Italian flags flying. There was a gondola

called John Philpott at 21st Century Drinks. Split Drink had the UK rights for "Jammie" (the Alcoholic Caribbean Crush) — the company's own illiterate spelling, please note. Call Split Drink and a caged woman answers the phone: "21st Century Drinks". Are you the same as Split Drink, then? "Indirectly." And Mr Philpott, who was managing director of Split and who also runs 21st Century, "He's in meetings all day." But help is at hand for those hooked on Jammie". Distribution rights have been passed to — yes, 21st Century Drinks. Meanwhile creditors of his other company are invited to a meeting next week. Bring your own bottle.

HIGHER EDUCATION Supplement, no less, ran a piece praising Corby's skills as better than the Met Office's. This has attracted a letter from the Met experts, who reckon that it is impossible to forecast almost a year in advance, as Corby's company claims to do.

His response is to point to the £10,000 a year he bets at William Hill, based on his own forecasts, with a success rate of 60 per cent. To calculate the odds the bookmaker uses Met Office data. Corby's argument is only slightly weakened by his forecast for September: stormy and wet.

MARTIN WALLER



Piers Corbyn bets £10,000 a year on his own weather forecasts at William Hill

Dark clouds

A STORM from has blown up between the Met Office and Piers Corbyn, who I understand is a freelance weather forecaster as well as brother of the MP Jeremy Corbyn. He is floating his Weather Action on AIM to raise £1 million. The date was to have been October 15, tenth anniversary of the Great Storm, but they seem to have missed it. The Times

LAW

Chris Barton attempts to unravel the tangle of competing claims for family rights



Lisa Grant, right, celebrates with Jill Percy after winning a European Court ruling that her partner was entitled to travel concessions from her employer

Gays, fathers and equality

The European Court of Justice last week gave a preliminary ruling that same-sex couples are entitled to the same job perks as unmarried heterosexual partners.

Lisa Grant, a 30-year-old railway clerk, brought the case after her employer, South West Trains, refused to give her partner, Jill Percy, the same free travel concessions granted to other workers' husbands, wives or "common-law opposite-sex spouses". But in an opinion which could benefit 35 million people across Europe, the Advocate-General of the court declared it was a breach of EU law for an employer to deny equal rights to lesbians.

Later the same day, the Prime Minister told the Labour Party conference that his concern for the modern family was "not about preaching to individuals about their private lives". Are some of our privately "illegal" families about to achieve official approval?

Ten years ago the Law Commission was canvassing for automatic recognition of unmarried fathers, while same-sex marriage was unheard of; today, the former has become politically unfashionable while the latter is said to have the support of the Conservative Leader of the Opposition. In the meantime, surrogate assisted and lesbian parenthood, and cohabitant adoption, have all found a place on the agenda.

Ironically, traditional family law is mainly concerned

with the ending of relationships, while the new groupings ask only the right to create, or to maintain, the family structure of their choice. Similarly, the number in these "would-be" households is unlikely to match the half-million or so unfortunates whose divorces, parents' divorces, care proceedings etc bring them annually before the "family" courts.

Increasing numbers of heterosexuals expect to enjoy the advantages of marriage despite their rejection of wedlock — yet wedlock is not a choice available to homosexuals.

This discrimination against gays — at the heart of the recent Luxembourg decision, although the Advocate-General seemed to indicate that the company involved could, with impunity under European law, have restricted its concessions to married partners only.

It may help to know that even in the growing number of countries where gays can achieve marriage-like status, it is commonplace, as in Denmark and Sweden, to exclude the capacity to adopt. Few countries may be ready to place surplus babies with same-sex couples when the opportunity exists to supply such children with both a mother and father.

That aside, the arguments for gay marriage are beginning to appeal to most in America, Congressmen Gerry

Studds calls the ban the final bulwark to civil rights in this area since slaves and mixed-race couples obtained the right to marry. Many of the same reasons for encouraging marriage between men and women also apply to gay-fidelity (particularly in the AIDS era), duty of mutual support, and one claim for income support per couple

bers increase by some 200,000 each year — together represent the supreme example of an existing but legally unrecognised relationship. Until recently these men were seen as evaders of financial responsibility, a disgrace largely ended by the Family Law Reform Act 1987 and the Child Support Acts 1991-95. But this equality with married fathers was not extended to an automatic recognition of their positive paternal role, now sought by "new" men. Only Parliament can oblige them, and perhaps because of the strife suffered by recent governments over the implementation (Child Support), or even the promulgation (Family Law Act 1996), of recent reforms, the issue did not feature in any pre-election manifestos.

Yet the arguments are strong. Only the father and the child — never the mother — are punished for a parental rejection of marriage; a social two-parent family is being treated as a one-parent family in law; the mother's death (or departure) leaves the child with a father who lacks parental responsibility; and it is fundamental that married fathers retain parental status even on desertion and/or divorce.

The distinction — between the recognition of existing relationships and the making or taking of children to create a brand new family — is

(gay couples are not currently treated as "living together" by the social services).

Cohabiting couples, of whatever gender, are not allowed to make joint adoption applications — these have remained the preserve of marrieds from the original 1926 legislation to the current Adoption Act. And there may be good reasons: recent research shows that such partnerships are four or more times more likely to break up than are marriages. When cohabitants do part, they cannot invoke the divorce court's power of financial relief. Perhaps adoption should therefore remain unavailable even where the child is born to one of the unmarried partners.

That aside, the arguments for gay marriage are beginning to appeal to most in America, Congressmen Gerry

• Stephen Baker & Co has installed an interactive Internet system so clients can instruct a solicitor via the Manchester law firm's Web page. In Liverpool Exchange Chambers claims to be the first in the city to have launched its own Web site.

Old boys' club
PHILLIP Sycamore, the President of the Law Society, is chipping in to help his old school, Lancaster Royal Grammar, in its millennium development appeal. The school, one of the top ten state schools, is seeking to raise £3 million for three projects: a science centre, a business and information centre and a sports and community centre. "It is an excellent school, which takes people strictly on merit but from all backgrounds," he says.

• The new undergraduate business game, Boardroom Blitz, is being run by Berwin Leighton, not S.J. Berwin (Law, September 30). It is supported by The Lawyer magazine.

SCRIVENOR

STUART & FRANCIS

Unlikely supporter

DAME Shirley Porter appears to have enlisted an unlikely ally — *Private Eye* — in her fight against the District Auditor John Magill's decision to surcharge her and five other former Westminster councillors and officials £31,677,044.

A campaign leaflet issued by the Westminster Supporters' Group on the eve of the High Court appeal, which began last week, repeated *Private Eye's* revelation that Sir David Keene, one of the judges due to hear the appeal, was the friend of Tony Blair who lent the Prime Minister his 12th-century French chateau over the summer.

Writ-ten off

JOURNALISTS are the latest group to be hit by escalating court fees. The Queen's Bench Division of the High Court has ended its policy of allowing them to trawl through boxes of writs for £20 an hour in search of a good story and will instead charge £5 to allow them to see each writ. One

freelance, Sarah Limbrick, told *Press Gazette*, the trade magazine for journalists: "There is no way you could look at 37,000 writs a year multiplied by £5."

Under and up
SIMMONS & Simmons finally tasted glory last weekend



Still painting — aged 99

COLLYER-BRISTOW is staging an exhibition by the painter Hans Feibusch, who, at 99, is still creating. The exhibition opens at the law firm's Bedford Row gallery next Tuesday and runs until November 13. Feibusch has worked in England since he fled here in 1933. But only since he saw *Shoah*, the 1985 film about the Holocaust, has he made paintings about it.

Section of Angel

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

IF YOU THINK I'M PAYING YOU A SINGLE PENNY OF THAT MONEY I OWE YOU, YOU CAN GO TO THE DEVIL!



STUART & FRANCIS

SCRIVENOR

STUART & FRANCIS



Those who moon feel gravity's force

Last month the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, dismissed Josie Lewis as a magistrate because she had "failed to uphold the dignity, standing and good reputation of the magistracy". Miss Lewis was not accused of falling asleep on the Swindon bench, causing some gross injustice, or displaying any of the other courtroom vices that can afflict even the best of judges. Her injudicious conduct was more fundamental: she had exposed her backside during an argument with a stable owner.

In April, Miss Lewis wished to remove some property from the stables in Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, owned by Brian Woodfield. They disagreed about her right to do so. To obtain evidence, Mr Woodfield began to take photographs. Miss Lewis dropped her breeches and moaned at him. Mr Woodfield's camera does not lie, and he obtained photographs of the bare truth. Instead of turning the other cheek, Mr Woodfield sent the snaps to the Lord Chancellor with a letter of complaint. After looking at the matter from all angles, the Lord Chancellor's Department has now decided to dismiss Miss Lewis from the bench.

Judges and magistrates occasionally misbehave in ways that demonstrate their manifest insensitivity to pass judgment on others. An extreme example is the case of David Lanier, a judge from Tennessee. In March, the US Supreme Court upheld his conviction, and a 25-year jail sentence, for sexual assaults committed from 1989 to 1991 in his judicial chambers on a number of women, including two of his secretaries, and a mother fighting a custody battle for her child. The jury had rejected his defence that he was a "hugging-type" person. Judge Lanier is now the subject of a nationwide hunt across the US.

Other recent American cases recognise that sanctions may have to be imposed on judges for misconduct in court. Last year the Supreme Court of Michigan suspended a judge for three days without pay because he "instigated a confrontational exchange" with counsel in court, "made caustic comments in an abusive tone" and showed "a total lack of self-control and an antagonistic mindset predisposed to an unfavourable disposition" of the hearing.

Other examples of courtroom misconduct may fall on the other side of the line. The Court of Judicial Discipline of Pennsylvania decided, in 1996, that a district judge should not suffer disciplinary sanctions for being late in returning from lunch on isolated occasions.

What judges do out of court may make

professional sanctions inevitable. In 1995, the Court of Appeals of New York removed a civil court judge from office because she had given advice at home to a drug dealer on how to launder the proceeds of his trade, and had looked after his money, for which she accepted \$1,500.

Also in 1995, the Supreme Court of Florida issued a reprimand to a judge who had responded to the receipt of a parking ticket by warning the police officer responsible that "I'll be on the bench for four more years and you'll have to deal with me every time you come to court with a case".

After the dismissal of Miss Lewis as a magistrate, Mr Woodfield expressed his delight. "It's not fitting," he said, "for someone who can send people to jail to act in such a manner." What standards should be imposed on magistrates is a perennial topic of debate. In his 1979 study, *The Changing Image of the Magistrate*, Sir Thomas Skyrme (who had responsibility for magistrates from within the Lord Chancellor's Department) noted that until the 1960s, a justice who was cited as a co-respondent in divorce proceedings normally had to resign. The same requirement was imposed on three women magistrates in the 1970s whose husbands were convicted of offences relating to the Poulton corruption affair in the North East.

The bottom line is that, at worst, Miss Lewis was silly and rude on an isolated occasion, and she exposed herself to criticism by her inability to express her feelings in a more articulate manner. But she caused no injury to Mr Woodfield (other than, perhaps, to his sense of self-importance). The police took no action. If the magistrate is to consist only of people who have never acted in a manner which, on sober reflection, they would regret, the ranks of JP's will be thinned down to a few Mother Teresas. Do we really want cases to be determined by a bench stripped of anyone who does not conform to the highest standards of propriety?

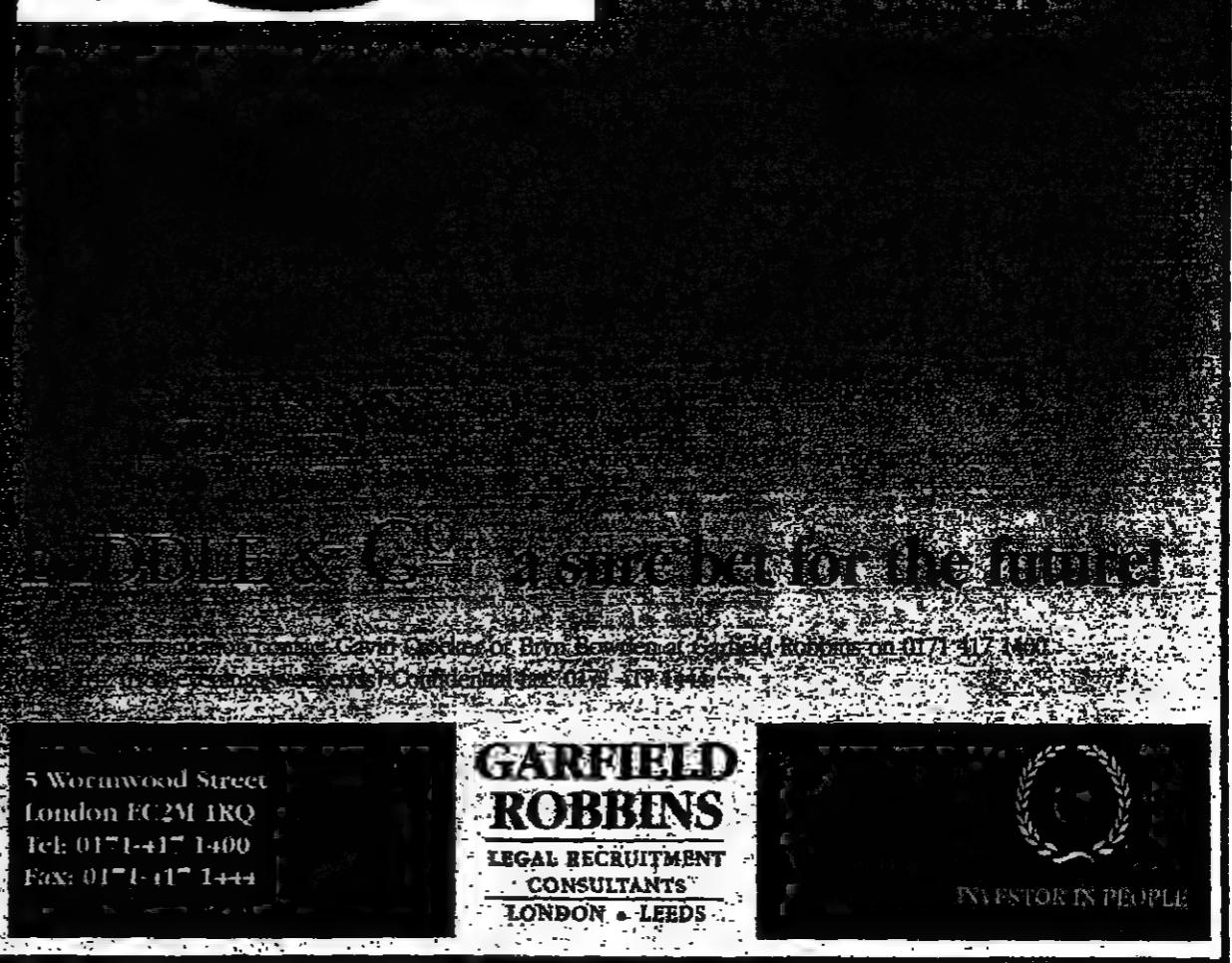
The Lord Chancellor's Department has taken a bum point. No action was needed against Miss Lewis, except to warn her against further mooning (if only because of the risk to her health on a windy day). The department should have returned Mr Woodfield's photographs with thanks, with the suggestion that he may wish, in the words of Tommy Steele in *Half a Sixpence*, to stick them in his family al-bum.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS



Stephen Baker & Co has installed an interactive Internet system so clients can instruct a solicitor via the Manchester law firm's Web page. In Liverpool Exchange Chambers claims to be the first in the city to have launched its own Web site.



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INTERVIEW BY TELEPHONE

LEGAL ADVISOR - BRISTOL

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

Love can never be unconditional for a multimillionaire, says James Zirin

Playing the trump card in divorce

When Donald and Ivana Trump announced their celebrated break-up in 1990, a financial journalist wrote: "The 1980s ended when Drexel filed for bankruptcy, and the Trumps filed for divorce. The circle is virtually complete with the 1990s all but ended: Drexel's head, Michael Milken, who served two years in prison for securities fraud, is all but rehabilitated, and the Trumps are all but divorced — the Maria Maples Trumps, that is."

Mr Trump achieved recognition in the 1980s as a brash master builder with a Midas touch who appeared to lead a charmed life surrounded by money, glitz and a beautiful blonde wife. By 1990, his fortunes had taken a turn for the worse. The bottom fell out of the property market, there were adverse changes in the tax laws and he was said to be \$8.8 million in debt.

Ivana, on the other hand, was portrayed as the big winner. She published a *roman à clef* entitled *For Love Alone*, a spicy story of a beautiful model who marries a tycoon only to lose him to another woman. She also received \$25 million from her husband under their prenuptial agreement. Mr Trump says he is a "great prenup believer": "You have to have them," he told the TV interviewer Larry King recently, "even though they're nasty documents."

American courts will generally enforce prenuptial agreements in the absence of fraud, duress or overreaching. Basically, they allow those embarking on matrimony to divide property and provide for their respective rights and obligations in the event of divorce.

While prenups may dull romance, they are strongly recom-

"It is unfair being married to Donald Trump," he says, "since business comes first."

In the 1990s Mr Trump's fortunes revived as he restructured his business and his personal life. The New York City property market heated up, and Mr Trump sold his apartment, buildings like hot cakes for up to \$1,000 (about £54) a square foot.

Post-divorce, he entered into the mandatory prenup and eventually married another blonde, the actress Marla Maples, already the mother of his child. Marla also succeeded Ivana as hostess of the Trump-sponsored Miss Universe pageant — but time was running out for her.

A clause in the prenup provided that on divorce she would get a paltry \$25 million, subject to escalation after a certain number of years of marriage. To avoid the

escalator, Mr Trump had to give notice of intention to divorce. He did, and Marla was history. More restructuring at the Trump Palace.

Olivia Goldsmith, author of *The First Wives Club*, bewails the disastrous changes in divorce laws over the last two decades [that] have not only failed to protect many wives financially but also given them "no emotional succour". Mrs Goldsmith, however, was not addressing prenups where, by agreement, spousal services are valued and capped in fierce bargaining sessions held in lawyers' offices.

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As a result of his profitable Atlantic City interests and a booming economy, Mr Trump in the

1990s was sitting with a pile of cash, substantially from fees he receives for managing hotel and casino properties. His debt load had been greatly reduced — largely by selling properties to public companies he controls. Forbes estimated his net worth at \$1.4 billion, although Mr Trump disputes the figure. "The real number," he says, "is \$3.7 billion." And he had reduced his cost of divorce tenfold from \$25 million to \$2.5 million.

Mr Trump believes he has been married to "two wonderful women". He blames his marriage failures on his devotion to his business. "It is unfair being married to Donald Trump," he says, "since business comes first." He is bringing out a new book, *The Art of the Comeback*. Meanwhile, he is not without a successor in the world of promotion. His daughter, Ivanka, is already embarked on a promising modelling career, is co-hosting another of his beauty pageants, *Miss Teen USA*.

• The author is a partner with the New York law firm, Brown & Wood.

Marla has hired Ivana's divorce lawyer to try to invalidate the prenup, and Mr Trump has promised to play "hardball". But if she tries to upset the deal, his settlement with Marla promises to be another Trump trap.

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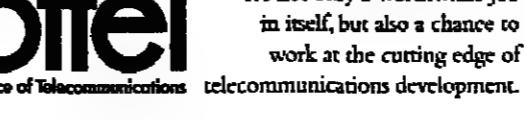
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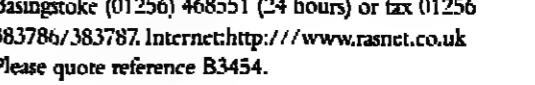
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Talking too much
One of the older tricks in the interviewer's book is to say nothing. Let the candidates flounder for a while, filling the silence with a rush of prepared interview answers, responses to questions that have not been asked. The more they say, the worse the impression they make. It takes a strong-nerved candidate to sit and wait for the next question, or to ask if there is anything more the interviewer wishes to hear.

But some candidates simply cannot contain themselves. They will run a verbal marathon unprepared. I remember a candidate so well qualified he could easily have got the job he wanted if he had said virtually nothing. Instead, he never stopped talking. The interviewer said me that he became increasingly amazed that the candidate could talk and breath at the same time. No offer was made. They were worried about the impression he'd give to their clients.

The same mistake is sometimes made by interviewers. They talk so much about their firm that candidates are given no opportunity either to ask questions or to reveal themselves. If the firm is not interested in who they are, why should the candidate want to work for them?

Interviews can be over-prepared. It is sometimes enough to take them as they come. You will see things you weren't looking for, things you would never have thought of in advance.

Michael Cheshire

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from Glaxo, (01403 - 710 971)

INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Aileen Shepherd

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High profile practice seeks solicitor c. NQ-4 years' ppe with general non-contentious banking expo. Exposure to relevant corporate and/or property issues preferred.

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The London-based production arm now requires an additional executive to join its Business Affairs team. They are looking for a 3-4 year qualified media lawyer, ideally with relevant production experience. You will be supporting a number of programme areas, with the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of the Group's activity from commissioning and production to distribution.

This position will appeal to a lawyer wanting to join a group that can offer outstanding opportunities for career development within the media sector. You must have the tenacity and confidence to work unsupervised and the flair to be part of a dynamic team.

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If you would like to discuss this exciting opportunity, please contact **Lucy Boyd**, Senior Consultant.

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RACING: HANDICAPPER RATES SUNDAY'S IMPRESSIVE ARC WINNER BELOW DANCING BRAVE

Peintre Celebre put in perspective

By CHRIS McGRAH

OLD masters never deprecate whatever new darlings the avant-garde discover — and those who acclaimed Peintre Celebre's brilliant win in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on Sunday were, yesterday, contented to retain their sense of perspective.

The vogue in Paris was to rank Peintre Celebre with the great Arc winners, to invoke the memory of Mill Reef and Sea Bird II. The official verdict on his achievement tempers such comparisons: rating the colt's defeat of Pilsudski as inferior to the performance of Dancing Brave in 1986. At the same time, it does suggest him to be one of the outstanding middle-distance horses of the last 20 years, akin to El Gran Senor and Generous.

After conferring with his international colleagues in France yesterday, Nigel Gray, the senior British handicapper, gave his blessing to an initial rating of 136. That affords Peintre Celebre parity with Suave Dancer, the 1991 winner, though both remain respectfully short of Dancing Brave on 141.

The defining characteristic of all three is a lethal turn of foot, in contrast to the unyielding gallop of Helios, who earned a mark of 134 — and, it should be remembered, similar rapture — when likewise beating Pilsudski by five lengths 12 months ago. Helios was below his best when fading into sixth on Sunday, but Oscar Schindler and Swain did offer a solid

base for the handicappers' ruminations by reproducing, virtually to the pound, their efforts the previous autumn.

"We're basing our figure

on Pilsudski's two runs prior to his win over a shorter trip in Ireland, which were rated 128 and 129," Gray said. "We don't feel that he matched the figure of 135 he achieved over ten furlongs in the Irish Champion Stakes." Gray demonstrated how this reading lends a satisfying symmetry to the race, as various horses through the field can then be seen to have run very close to

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FINAL TANGO
(3-10 Redcar)Next best: Atlanta
(2.00 Warwick)

their ratings. "If you were to assume that Pilsudski had run to 135, you would have to raise just about every other runner's rating, and that would be unrealistic."

Handicappers always concede the inexact nature of their science, and Gray cheerfully acknowledges the sheer impact of Peintre Celebre's display. "He quickened and drew away from a field of high-class, proven horses," Gray said, adding: "It is great for racing that he is staying in training."

The fact that top-class three-year-olds no longer retire with

defeat for Kilimanjaro and Arkadian Hero and minor surgery for King Of Kings has put the onus firmly on Second Empire to look the part in his next outing. That will be in either the Grand Critérium at Longchamp on Sunday or the Thoroughbred Corporation Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket six days later. Either way, he may be measured against the performance of the exciting Duck Row in a conditions race at Ascot on Saturday.

Peintre Celebre's rating is based on his record in 10 races, three of which were at 12 furlongs. The handicapper's



Pestier and Peintre Celebre return in triumph after their outstanding Arc success

REDCAR

2.10 Fanti Dancer
3.40 Royal Castle
4.10 Restructure
4.40 Listed Account
5.10 Smokey From Caplaw

Timeticker's top rating: 2.40 LAPU-LAPU.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 POLAR PROSPECT (nap).
3.10 Light Step. 4.10 Snow Kid.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.10 MALTON CLAMMING STAKES (2-Y-O, £2,570; 7f) (15 runners)

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2 (3) 020200 NO CLOCHE 12 (F) 6m 4-10-0 1st M. McIlroy (7).
3 (4) 030407 GYMRACK PREMIERE 2 12 (F, 0.5G) 6m 4-10-0 1st L. Corlett.
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5 (6) 010200 MURKATUSS 35 (F, 0.5G) 6m 5-6-1 1st L. Dated.
6 (7) 030504 TURBINE 12 (F) 6m 5-6-1 1st J. Dated.
7 (8) 030504 DANCE 12 (F) 6m 5-6-1 1st K. Neeson.
8 (9) 030504 DRAHIT DOCTOR 46 (F) 6m 5-6-1 1st K. Neeson.
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Guide to P

In one month your team can win you £1,000

The story so far...

Another month of Interactive Team Football has passed... And I still haven't won any money. It's a marathon, not a sprint. It's who's top at the end of the season that counts. Stop talking like a manager; that's my job. Plus it's not true in ITF. Apart from the £50,000, there's a monthly prize of £1,000. Which I've missed again. Haven't you even won a pair of tickets to a premier league game? That must have about the same cash value. Not far off; and anyway, you have to be a youth... No chance there, then... or a woman or a student to win the monthly mini-league prizes.

I thought you were a student of life. Doesn't count, I'm afraid.

But you've definitely been doing your homework. I'm impressed by your knowledge of the system. What else have you found out?

That I'm 20,000th in the overall standings. Worse than Barnsley. Worse than Doncaster.

Worse than your Sunday league team in all probability—but that isn't too bad, you know.

How do you mean?

Well, there are hundreds of thousands of competitors involved in ITF this season. 20,000th is actually pretty good. Somewhere near the top ten percent. I should think.

So more Derby than Doncaster, as it turns out.

In a way.

More Manchester United than Barnsley, in fact?

You could say so.

In line for a place in Europe?

Let's not get carried away. There are 19,999 managers above you, after all.

Maybe there are now—but wait till the soft grounds come along!

That's the spirit. But speaking of grounds, what's been happening out on the park, as you managers say? Didn't I catch a glimpse of your man Bayabaro playing for Chelsea the other day? In that European game! Yes, another full-back playing in midfield.

Quite a feature of Chelsea this season.

Still hasn't played a league game though, has he?

Not as such.

Pshaw. So he hasn't been booked or sent off. That's the other main feature of Chelsea this season.

You could have sold him before the revaluation.

I thought about it. But better the devil you know...

Or the one you haven't seen play...



ITF winners are celebrating their monthly prizes this week

He has discarded one or two Leeds United defenders with whom he began the season, but sounds like George Graham when discussing the secrets of his success: "All my teams are built on solid defence. Most of my teams have David Seaman in goal, and another Arsenal defender—they're not going to give away

To find out your points total and ranking call the ITF checklist on

0891 884 643

goals. And you couldn't go wrong with Berg and Pallister.

Up front, half of the Paolo Negrini-Chris Sutton dream ticket was in place from the beginning. "Negrini I thought was a giveaway at the start of the season at £3.5 million (he has since been revalued, and would now cost £6.5 million). I had him in virtually every team." Mr Farhall is a believer in using the transfer market to its full potential, and a keen student of form. "Andy Smith of Dunfermline did well last season," he said. "There are quite a few bargains around in Scotland."

You can still enter ITF via The Times Website (www.times.co.uk), via LineOne or via Sky Sports Interactive (Sky Text page 118). Please note that some features such as mini-leagues may not be available on these platforms.

September success: Keith Farhall, right, this month's ITF winner, celebrates his £1,000 prize with his son Stuart and Wimbledon central defender Chris Perry

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS
All 1997-8 matches in the FA Cup, Premiership, FA Cup, Scottish League, premier division and non-league, Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS AWARDED	
Goalkeeper	Shots goal
Keeps clean sheet (per half)	+3 points
Scored goal	+20 points
Saves penalty	+1 point
Penalty keeper/Goalkeeper defender	All players
Keeps clean sheet	+3 points
Scored goal	+4 points
Midfield player	Appearance
Keeps clean sheet	+3 points
Scored goal	Scored hat-trick
Defender	+10 bonus
Wins	Manager
Draws	+3 points
Scored goal	+3 points

POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	Scored goal
Concedes goal	-2 points
Penalty keeper/Goalkeeper defender	All players
Concedes goal	-1 point
All players	Concedes penalty
Sent off	-3 points
All players	Scored own goal
Manager	-3 points
Team loses	-1 point

• Must have played a complete half in the match. +3 points
• Must have played for 75 minutes in the match
• Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-leagues (women's, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:
0991 111 333

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3765. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE		PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE	
ITF LEAGUE		PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE	
Monthly prize of £50,000 top prize £2,000 monthly prize		Professional choices their fantasy team	
Mitre		DAIRY CREST	
YOUTH LEAGUE		Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag	
WOMEN'S LEAGUE		Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag	

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
S Whited	Snail Busters	266	H Irvine	H's Devils	265	L Cludleigh	Roland FC	265	E Hughes	Puters Town	258	S Webb	Shrimpsations	258	M Parrott	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	245	E Swans
E Swans	United States	245	O Hodge	Avon's Calling	242	L Hall	Linda's Lagers	242	J Fraser	The Brexington 1	238	N Hutton	Woking Phantoms	238	C Kelly	K McKeek	Kimbo Killers	237	M Jess
J Fraser	Blue Boys	238	N Hutton	United	241	N Hutton	Avon's Calling	242	N Hutton	Linda's Lagers	243	N Hutton	Woking Phantoms	238	B Sharp	J Birneaud	Penfield FC	237	J Birneaud
N Hutton	Perfect FC	251	N Hutton	Perfect FC	251	N Hutton	Blue Boys	245	N Hutton	United	241	N Hutton	Avon's Calling	242	N Hutton	N Hutton	Penfield FC	237	J Birneaud
N Hutton	Perfect FC	251	N Hutton	Perfect FC	251	N Hutton	Blue Boys	245	N Hutton	United	241	N Hutton	Avon's Calling	242	N Hutton	N Hutton	Penfield FC	237	J Birneaud
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N Hutton	Perfect FC	251	N Hutton	Perfect FC	251	N Hutton	Blue Boys	245	N Hutton	United	241	N Hutton	Avon's Calling	242	N Hutton	N Hutton	Penfield FC	237	J Birneaud
N Hutton	Perfect FC	251	N Hutton	Perfect FC	251	N Hutton	Blue Boys	2											

£1,000

THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 7 1997

SPORT 43

Guide to players, transfers and revaluations

They may perform brilliantly but your ITF players can be seriously penalised for lack of discipline



The goals, the hat-tricks, the great saves that guarantee the clean sheets are the stuff of footballing glory, and the route to success in Interactive Team Football to boot. However, as in the game on grass, there is a place in any team for the steady player who turns in the consistent performance, week after week.

When you have splashed out the big money on star goalkeepers and a brick-wall defence, what is left would be wisely spent on a journeyman who puts in the appearances, seldom missing a game,

Words: Nick Szczepanik

weighing in with the odd goal, and staying out of the referee's book. For disciplinary indiscretions can be costly, as supporters of, say, Chelsea, have recently found.

Twice in recent weeks, Ruud Gullit's men have been reduced to ten and, in both cases, have gone on to lose the game: on Saturday the loss of Bernard Lambourde after only 26 minutes was, arguably, the turning point of the match at Liverpool.

In ITF, a player has a point deducted for every booking, and three for a dismissal. Naturally, a team with ten men is less likely to give a player a point for a win, and a subsequent suspension will cost the player his appearance points as well as the opportunity to add to his points total in the conventional manner.

Slaven Bilic, the Everton central defender, and Justin Edinburgh, the Tottenham Hotspur full back, are the worst offenders in the FA Carling Premiership. Both have accrued four yellow cards and one red — a total of seven minus points. Brian O'Neill of Aberdeen, with three yellow cards and one red, and Chelsea's Dennis Wise and Coventry's Paul Williams, both of whom have seen yellow six times already, are the next-worst in the ITF lists.



THE PLAYER lists below now include values based on last week's player revaluation. Players in your team whose prices are listed in bold are now only be transferred at those prices, whatever their original value; this may mean that the total value of your squad is now more (or less) than the initial £25m, but you do not have to make transfers to restore the £25m total.



Above left: Bilic, who has seven minus points. Above: Lambourde, dismissed on Sunday

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

MOVED

53003 **Dean Holdsworth** Bolton Wanderers £3.0m
transferred from Wimbledon

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

FULL PLAYER LISTS INCLUDING OCTOBER REVALUATIONS, SHOWN IN BOLD TYPE. NEW PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM LAST WEEK

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2 -9
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	8 35
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	8 22
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	9 -24
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn	3.50	8 24
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	2 16
10701	S Ken	Celtic	4.00	0 0
10801	E Da Gosey	Chelsea	3.00	-7 10
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	7 23
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0 0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0 17
11101	M Poore	Derby County	1.50	0 25
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	-2 14
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	-2 0
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0 -1
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	1.50	8 25
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0 0
11701	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	-4 11
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	7 25
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	2.50	0 41
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-2 17
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	8 58
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0 0
12301	S Given	Newcastle	4.00	8 32
12401	A Goran	Rangers	5.00	0 3
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	3 -8
12701	M Taylor	Southampton	0.50	0 0
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	8 7
12801	I Walker	Tottenham	3.00	2 27
12901	L Miskosko	West Ham Utd	2.00	-2 7
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	2 19

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0 -11
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	5 9
30302	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0 0
30203	G Grindam	Arsenal	2.00	0 12
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	5 5
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	5 5
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.50	5 12
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	-5 16
30402	A Nzonzi	Barnsley	0.50	-9 14
30502	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0 -2
30503	C Hendry	Blackburn	3.00	5 18
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn	2.50	5 10
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn	2.00	0 0
30601	G Taggart	Bolton	1.50	0 4
30602	G Bergesson	Bolton	1.00	0 5
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton	1.00	0 0
30604	M Fish	Bolton	1.50	0 0
30701	E Annan	Celtic	1.50	1 1
30703	M Mackay	Celtic	3.00	0 2
30704	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	5 11
30705	M Riether	Celtic	3.00	5 6
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	0 10
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0 8
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	-3 5
30804	D Tuttle	Chelsea	2.50	-1 4
30805	B Lambourde	Coventry City	1.50	0 0
30806	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50	4 12
30807	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	4 12
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0 -1
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	-1 3
31003	L Limgham	Crystal Palace	0.75	-1 3
31005	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0 0
31101	I Stilicic	Derby County	2.50	0 6
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50	0 12
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	-2 6
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	-2 4
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50	-2 7
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	-2 5
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00	0 16
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	-3 1
31602	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.00	4 16
31603	G Halle	Leeds Utd	2.00	4 11
31604	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0 8
31605	L Radford	Leeds Utd	1.50	3 5
31606	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	0 21
31607	P Kazmacki	Leicester City	2.00	0 21
31701	S Welsh	Leicester City	1.50	0 25
31702	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	5 15
32001	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0 0
32002	B Kverne	Liverpool	3.00	5 23
32003	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	5 20
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0 0
32102	G Fallaize	Manchester Utd	3.50	5 28
32201	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0 13
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	5 15
32303	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	5 5
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0 8
32401	S Poirier	Rangers	3.50	-1 10
32402	B Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0 10
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50	0 0
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	1 -3
32502	J Newcome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0 0
32503	P Atherton	Southampton	1.00	0 5
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0 5
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	5 10
32704	K Monkoff	Southampton	1.00	5 13
32801	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0 0
32802	S Campbell	Tottenham	2.50	0 0
32803	J Scales	Tottenham	2.00	0 0
32804	R Vega	Tottenham	2.00	-1 5
32805	C Calderwood	Tottenham	2.50	-2 4
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.00	0 0
32902	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0 0
32903	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	-2 5
32904	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	0 1
32905	I Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.00	-3 6
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0 6
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0 3

Code	Name	Team	

Barry Town player in Gould's squad for World Cup qualifier in Belgium

Wales summon non-league recruit

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

GAINING selection for the country listed at 98th in the world rankings may not rate as the most distinguished of honours, but Gary Lloyd, the Barry Town defender, could barely contain himself yesterday. He had been called into the Wales squad for the group seven World Cup qualifying match against Belgium on Saturday.

Lloyd, 25, who once worked in a meat factory, is the first non-league player in the post-war era to be picked for the Principality's full international squad. Although unlikely to start the game in Brussels, he was delighted to have caught the eye of Bobby Gould, the Wales manager.

"I was told Bobby wanted to talk to me but I thought it was no more than a joke," Lloyd said. "Then I realised it wasn't. I'm amazed, stunned — it's a dream come true for me. I've watched all the Welsh players on TV and now I'm going to be training and travelling with them."

"I'm not really expecting to play but it will still be an unbelievable experience just to be involved. I've got the chance to rub shoulders with the likes of Neville Southall and Ryan Giggs. It's going to be wonderful."

Lloyd, who lives in Llanelli, has never represented Wales at any level, though he once captained his district schoolboy side. His is the son of Gil Lloyd, the former Wales amateur international, and played for Llanelli until moving to Barry, the League of Wales champions, four years ago.

Gould always kept an eye on emerging talent, has monitored his progress for several years. "I almost called him up for a full international in Albania a couple of seasons ago when we were badly hit by injuries," he said. He watched



Flag day: Gary Lloyd, of Barry Town, shows off the Welsh flag yesterday after hearing of his call-up for the game in Brussels on Saturday

him play last week in Barry's 2-1 victory against Swansea City in the Football Association of Wales Invitation Cup at the Vetch Field. With Kit Symons, the Manchester City defender, dropping out of the squad because of injury, Lloyd, a left back, received the unexpected call.

Gould likens him to Stuart Pearce, the England and

Newcastle United full back, who he signed from non-league Walsallstone when he was manager of Coventry City.

"He reminds me very much of Stuart," Gould said, "and I know he has the ability to make a step up like this."

Barry, the only full-time professional club in the League of Wales, completed a

domestic treble last season. After winning the championship, the Welsh Cup and the League Cup, they competed in the European Cup Champions' League preliminary round earlier this season, but were beaten 6-0 on aggregate by Dynamo Kiev, of Ukraine, who drew 2-2 with Newcastle last week.

"Garry's selection is a mar-

velous honour for the club,"

Chris Aust, the Barry general manager, said. "We're very proud of him and wish him every success in the Welsh squad. It also underlines the progress we have made here in recent years."

Wales have long since lost their chance of reaching the World Cup finals in France next year and have slipped behind the likes of Guatemala,

Sierra Leone and Tanzania in the rankings of Fifa, the world governing body. However, the game on Saturday is vital for Belgium if they beat Wales, they will finish second in the group and force their way into the play-offs to determine the last four qualifiers from Europe. If they lose or draw, Turkey can overtake them by winning in Holland.

Yorath expected to take over as Huddersfield sack Horton

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BRIAN HORTON, the Huddersfield Town manager, was dismissed yesterday by the struggling Nationwide League club. Huddersfield, who have yet to win a league match in nine attempts this season, and are bottom of the first division, are expected to appoint Terry Yorath, the former Wales manager, as first-team coach today.

Peter Jackson, 36, the former Huddersfield captain, is also likely to return to the club as part of a new coaching team.

Horton, 48, took over from Neil Warnock two years ago, shortly after being dismissed by Manchester City. He was

hardly surprised by the developments yesterday. "I can't say it has come as a bombshell because I've been in the game long enough to know this sort of thing happens in this situation," he said.

"Managers stand or fall by their results and that's what we have taken into account," Malcolm Asquith, the Huddersfield chairman, said. "Brian has been a good man to work with."

Yorath, 47, who lives in Leeds, took Wales to the brink of the World Cup finals in 1994 but they were beaten 2-1 by Romania in Cardiff in their final qualifying match. More recently, he has been the national coach of Lebanon.

Although Horton's squad was frequently depleted by injuries, he achieved little success when delving into the

transfer market. Huddersfield

were the only club in the Nationwide League and FA Carling Premiership not to sign a player during the summer.

Managers stand or fall by their results and that's what we have taken into account,"

Malcolm Asquith, the Huddersfield chairman, said. "Brian has been a good man to work with."

Yorath, now the chief operating officer with Fulham, left St James' Park nine months ago after five years in charge. He says in the book's serialisation in *The Sun* that he wanted to leave last Christmas, because he felt he could no longer motivate the play-

ers or himself, but had agreed to stay on until the end of the season. He was then advised to go immediately.

Steve Wraith, editor of *No 9*, the Newcastle fanzine, said: "We are very upset at the way Kevin has sold his story. We will never forgive him as a player or manager, who took us where we are now, but to this is an insult to us."

On January 7, Keegan was summoned to a board meet-

ing and told that he was "an integral part of the flotation document" and would have to sign a two-year contract or leave. "I knew what had happened," Keegan said. "The board dared not reveal to the City that I was leaving in the summer. They couldn't lie, either, so they panicked... I just looked at them and said: 'Right, let's get this settled because I'm not staying beyond the end of the season. There's no turning back.'

He said he was delighted to be involved. "I have a keen interest in sport and I know that ice hockey is immensely popular with an exciting future," he said. "I am looking forward to being involved in its development."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Branson arrives in nick of time

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ONLY rugby league could say farewell to old-trodden Oldham after more than a century and in the same week take Richard Branson to its bosom in London. Either it is conquering the world, or its small world is collapsing.

In becoming chairman of London Broncos, Branson said: "We wouldn't buy into Manchester United, because the achievement is already there. Rugby league is a fantastic sport, a wonderful local sport. To get in on its infancy is the right thing."

Try telling that to 102-year-old Oldham, relegated from the Super League this season, and whose shareholders will be asked to approve the act of going into liquidation. The grass roots are being pulled up with one hand and seeds scattered with the other — to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cardiff, and Dublin, whichever is awarded the Paris franchise next year, or in 1999.

Ah, Paris! Impossibly glamorous, yet the scene of what felt like the new Super League's finest hour 19 months ago, when 18,000 non-plussed Parisians witnessed the opening defeat of Sheffield Eagles. Investors are urgently sought to fulfil the transplantation of Paris into one of the new cities.

Two years into the five-year deal with News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, London represents the partial fulfilment of the contractual obligation to break out from the M62 corridor. A process that should have begun in 1995 is only now

gearing up, but the spread of the Super League could extend from London to Scotland and beyond within 18 months.

What is obvious is that there are insufficient players — British anyway — to go round. The 1997 season, with the three-match Great Britain v Australia series outstanding, was no classic, and the world club championship, which resulted in four Amiprod semi-finalists, left British teams scarred and fears that the wounds will be reopened at Wembley, Old Trafford, and Elland Road next month.

The 1997 season showed that British teams are lagging further behind their Australasian counterparts, technically, fitness-wise, and in mental preparation. Even so, the potential does exist. The Broncos' crowds at the Stoop Memorial Ground have been better than Harlequins' their landlords. Branson's presence can only feed the appetite for rugby league, although the cosmopolitan attraction of the world championship in London contrasted with its parochial reception in the North.

Bradford Bulls averaged 15,000 home attendances in winning the Super League, but their ill-fated world title campaign was nowhere near as popular. Local enmity is what the game thrives on in its concentrated northern enclave. Its strength at grass roots is also its weakness when it comes to spreading the game, but Oldham's untimely demise and Branson's timely arrival form an interesting paradox.

South opened One Heart after two passes and West over-called One Spade. Thereafter North had a hand with a few high cards and South a hand with good playing hand with at least ten red cards. North-South ended in Four Hearts.

After this informative auction, West (Geoff Hampson, a silver medallist in the World Junior Championships) led three rounds of spades. Declarer ruffed and advanced the queen of hearts. Hampson rose with the ace and played a fourth spade. East ruffed in with his ten hearts, promoting Hampson's eight for one down. They were the only pair to beat Four Hearts.

Hampson's skill was in recognising that he had to play East for either 10, 19 or 109 of hearts to beat the contract.

Many Wests started with three rounds of spades but then ducked the first trump

trick — now it was too late. After a total of three weeks, the winners of the Camrose Trials were John Collings, Martin Jones (Warrington), Alan Mould and Gary Hyatt (Manchester) with 187 VPs. Runners-up were Dick Shek, Guy Calderwood, David Burn and Joe Fawcett (London) with 163. Both pairs of each team are guaranteed at least one match for England in this season's Camrose internationals against the other home countries.

□ The Times Book of Bridge 1, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 p&p).

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RAMPALLION
a. The king dandelion
b. A forward woman
c. A jousting lance

TITULAR
a. A bird
b. An Etruscan God
c. Holding a title

GOSPOON
a. A young lad
b. A racing sail
c. A transparent fabric

MURCID
a. Muddy, turbid
b. Lazy, idle
c. Rancid, rotten

Answers on page 46

ICE HOCKEY

Late goal spree destroys Cobras

By NORMAN DE MUSQUITA

AFTER the first weekend of Superleague action, it is already obvious that the competition will be closer than last season and goals will be hard to come by. Of six games played, four were tied, one was won by a single goal and only one saw a team score more than three times.

Ayr Scottish Eagles beat Newcastle Cobras 5-4, but it was not until late in the second period that they broke a 1-1 deadlock with two goals in less than three minutes. They scored twice more in the final session to complete the win, which might have been more decisive but for another excellent game by Stephen Foster in the Newcastle goal.

Scott O'Connor, whose opportunities were rare last season as he watched Trevor Robins give some superlative performances in goal for Nottingham Panthers, made his fourth appearance of the young season and produced 40 saves as the Panthers were held 2-2 by Bracknell Bees.

Both Bracknell goals came while they had a manpower advantage, but there were several occasions when the Nottingham defence was caught out of position and O'Connor outwitted the Bracknell forward each time.

Cardiff Devils played their second 3-3 tie of the weekend and needed a late equaliser by Steve Morris to salvage a point in their home opener against Basingstoke Bison. The Cardiff penalty killers played a leading role as the Devils were two men short for more than five minutes during the second period.

Ian Taylor has been appointed the chief executive of the Superleague. He is best known as the goalkeeper for the Great Britain field hockey squad that won an Olympic gold medal in 1988, and he earned more than 400 caps for Great Britain and England.

Taylor is a former director of the British Olympic Association and was a member of the Hockey Association executive committee for 12 years.

He said he was delighted to be involved. "I have a keen interest in sport and I know that ice hockey is immensely popular with an exciting future," he said. "I am looking forward to being involved in its development."

SNOOKER

Bond able to put trauma aside

By PHIL YATES

IN a sport where, since 1980, Steve Davis and Stephen Hendry have accounted for 136 tournament wins between them, it is only natural that members of the supporting cast savour a rare triumph. Ken Doherty did precisely that at the world championship in May, and Nigel Bond was equally overjoyed after capturing the Regal Scottish Masters title in Motherwell on Sunday night.

It has been an emotionally draining summer for Bond, who recovered from 8-6 down and from 61 points in arrears in the fifteenth frame, to beat Alan McManus 9-8 and win the £60,000 first prize.

Bond, aged 31, became a father for the second time four months ago but soon afterwards a paediatric specialist delivered the news that the baby, Daniel, was suffering from a serious heart defect that will require surgery.

Snooker, of course, became of secondary importance but, supported by his wife, Caron, Bond began preparing for the season ahead. Little did the former English amateur champion from Old Tupton in Derbyshire realise that the new campaign would bring him success almost immediately.

By producing a 67 clearance to steal the fifteenth frame on the black, Bond planned a seed of doubt in the mind of McManus and the Scot, who has converted many semi-final and final appearances into only three trophies in seven years as a professional, again stumbled with the winning post in view.

McManus accepted another near-miss stoically, but his claims that the defeat "did not hurt that much" were unconvincing. Losing, especially from such a position of strength, must, to some degree, undermine the confidence of any player, no matter how strenuously he attempts to be positive.

Bond, with no such concerns, defends a title later this month at the Rothmans Masters Grand Prix but, first, he and McManus, along with the game's leading players, will converge on the Grand Prix in Bournemouth. The first of the eight world-ranking tournaments of the season gets underway next Tuesday.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand from the 1997 Cavendish teams event. It featured a far-sighted play to achieve a trump promotion.

Dealer North	Love all	IMPs
♦AK764 V888 +73 ♦K107	♦QJ9 +109 +Q4 ♦Q88532	16
	♦105 +VKQ432 +A10865	17
	♦4	18
		19

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ace of spades.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's challenger

In spite of the elaborate preparations by the world chess federation (Fide) to stage a 100-player knockout tournament in Groningen and Lausanne at the end of this year and the beginning of 1998 to determine the destination of its own championship, what the public would most like to see is a direct clash between Kasparov and Kramnik. Although Fide has seeded Anatoly Karpov directly into the final of its tournament, Karpov's ranking of 2,745, lags far behind that of Kramnik (2,770). Kasparov's, at 2,820, is way ahead of both of them.

It is inexplicable that Fide has seeded Karpov directly into the final of its million-dollar event and has not decided merely to have them square Karpov directly into the final and extended the deciding match to at least 16 games. Had they squared Karpov directly into the final and extended the deciding match to at least 16 games, it is almost certain that the champion would have participated.

Today's game shows the young Russian genius Kramnik in action in the tournament in Tilburg.

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Tilburg, September 1997

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	c4	b6	Nbd4

<tbl_r cells="

RUGBY UNION

Ryan faces ban after intervention by Brittle

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE rugby union season, already tortured by disciplinary proceedings, took another twist yesterday when Dean Ryan, the Newcastle captain, was suspended for an incident that happened more than six weeks ago. Ryan is to appeal against a 28-day ban imposed after an intervention by Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) management board.

The former England No 8 was involved in a clash on August 23 during the Allied Dunbar Premiership match between his club and Bath. He took retaliatory action against Nathan Thomas, the Bath and Wales back-row forward who kicked Tim Simpson and was later suspended. Ryan himself received a yellow card from Steve Lander, the match referee, but nearly a month passed before Newcastle discovered that there were further proceedings.

Brittle, having witnessed the incident, which was shown on television, contacted Roy Manock, the RFU disciplinary officer and a panel met on Friday in Darlington to decide whether Ryan's conduct was prejudicial to the game. They decided that it was, and, if the suspension is upheld, Ryan will miss two vital Premiership matches, though he has been told that, pending his appeal, he can play and has been named in the XV that meets Northampton in the Premiership tomorrow.

There are two issues with which rugby must come to terms: the first is the power of television, which will always be inequitable. Only a handful of games receive exposure and the players appearing in those

games are, therefore, far more susceptible to punishment than match officials miss any controversial incidents. That, however, has become a feature in the new professional era and has to be accepted.

The other issue, to which Newcastle take the greatest exception, is the delay in bringing Ryan to book. There should be a "reasonable" period to allow for the possibility of disciplinary proceedings but that should be a matter of days rather than weeks, and should be the responsibility of a properly-constituted review panel or of a match commissioner employed for the purpose.

"It's our view that this is a wholly inappropriate use of the regulations and we will be lodging an appeal," Rob Andrew, the Newcastle director of rugby, said.

A six-year agreement with Nike will net the RFU more than £10 million over the next six years. The sportswear company will supply a new England strip up to and including the 2003 World Cup, although it will run in conjunction with the existing kit sponsors, Celnet, until 2000. Nike will also sponsor the match against South Africa on November 29, and probably at least one international in each of the subsequent years of the deal.

Yorkshire will stage five of the third-round Tedes's Bitter Cup ties on November 1, including a derby between Wakefield and Morley. Doncaster, who disposed of Nottingham last Saturday, have a potentially awkward home tie with Tynedale, and the longest trip will be made by Launceton, who travel to Rotherham.

Drawing inspiration from the appearance of the Ryder



Steve Lambourn, of the Clerical Medical team, plays round the trees on the 13th. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Whitley Bay steal the thunder

FROM GEOFF HARWOOD
IN SAN LORENZO

LIGHTNING signalled the opening of the skies over the San Lorenzo course before the first ball had been struck. The thunder was provided by Gary Donnison and Andrew Lucas, who held their nerve to take the Lombard Top Club Trophy for Whitley Bay Golf Club at the first hole in a sudden-death play-off yesterday.

In a final interrupted by driving rain in the Algarve, the Whitley Bay partnership kept their grip while others were losing theirs to secure victory with a total of 135, nine under par.

Such was the intensity of the competition after 18 holes of better-ball play on Sunday that eight pairs stood within four strokes of the first-round leaders, Andrew Baguley and Geoff Anderson, of Leigh Golf Club, near Manchester.

Yet after play was halted for 2½ hours yesterday, Whitley Bay began their charge.

Drawing inspiration from

Cup, in the hands of Sandy Jones, the executive director of the Professional Golfers' Association, Whitley Bay confirmed their challenge for the title of leading club in Britain and Ireland.

Despite the worst the weather could offer, Whitley Bay, the Worldham Park pair of Jon Le Roux and Peter Shildman, and Slinfold Park emerged at the head of the leaders.

As the Leigh challenge fell away, so three clubs, Whitley Bay, the Worldham Park pair of Jon Le Roux and Peter Shildman, and Slinfold Park emerged at the head of the leaders.

A birdie at the 15th took

Donnison and Lucas to within one shot of the lead to set up a tense finish, with the daunting par-four 18th, played over water, to come.

A birdie three at the 17th by Donnison brought them level with Worldham but at the final tee the professional at Slinfold, near Lincoln, on the eve of the tournament.

The manner of the Whitley

Bay success in the final push

would have done credit to Steve Redgrave and the Great Britain coxless four, present as part of the sporting team supported by Lombard, the event's sponsor.

Donnison, who came close to giving up the game a year ago, said: "It is my biggest win so far, given the scale of the tournament. I was ready to pack in at the start of last year, but my mum and dad kept saying: 'Stick at it, you are so proud.'

Lucas, an eight-handicapper, who missed from eight feet at the 18th to win outright, added: "I was so nervous I couldn't grip the club properly. The bigges pro-am event in

Europe had begun in the spring with 110,000 amateurs from 1,100 clubs pursuing a place on the plane to Portugal, but the field for its conclusion was reduced to 15 pairs because of the tendonitis sustained by Graham Bradley, the professional at Blankney, near Lincoln, on the eve of the tournament.

The manner of the Whitley

Bay success in the final push

Orchard title effort takes root at last

By MEL WEBB

AT LAST, they had done it.

They had won; their joy was

unconfined. Orchard Toys,

based in Keyworth, near Not-

tingham, had entered The

Times MeesPierson Corporate

Golf Challenge every year

since its inception in 1993, and

every year they had reached

regional finals without walk-

ing the extra mile into the

national final. Yesterday, that

all changed.

Orchard took the East Mid-

lands final at Breadsall Priory

with a score of 85 points, five

better than their nearest pur-

suers. As a grey morning

developed between three chas-

ing partners, Knoll Pharmaceu-

ticals, Pannell Kerr Forster, and

Jaguar Centre (Hull), the win-

ners last year at Breadsall.

Knoll eventually emerged on

top, but only after a

countback of the back nine

holes after all three had tied on

80. Knoll had every reason to

expect that their score would

be good enough on a Priory

course that was playing to

every one of its 6,201 yards.

Orchard's quartet soon shat-

tered their dreams of four days

of golf in the sun in the

national final at La Manga in

Movenster.

Orchard's victory was hard-

won. None of the players —

Keith Harvey, the chief execu-

tive of the company, Simon

Newbury, David Potter, the

company's solicitor, and Roger

Ford, the company's accoun-

tant — made good starts.

In Ford's case, a lack of

acceleration was perhaps, un-

derstandable. On Sunday, he

finished second in the United

Kingdom clay-pigeon shoot-

ing championship in York-

shire.

The others, though, had no

excuse. "We just couldn't get

going," Newbury, who played

with Harvey in the event's

new regional final format of

splitting each team into two

two-balls, said. "Roger didn't

get a point for the first three

holes and I only got a couple."

Having started at the 10th,

they made their first impres-

sion on the 13th, where they both had bogeys for net pars and two points. At the next they both had pars, which, with a shot a piece, was turned into two net birdies and six points.

With Newbury finishing his round with three pars and a bogey, they had done their bit. Harvey, who admitted he had hardly played the round of his life, scored 25 points but only twice made an appearance on the card recording the best two scores from four.

Fortunately for him, and his team, the two contributions he made were worth five points, which his colleagues rapidly pointed out were what made the difference between victory and defeat. He waited until the 15th before unfurling his large-headed titanium driver, and immediately had a par for three points.

Orchard took the East Mid-lands final at Breadsall Priory with a score of 85 points, five better than their nearest pur-

suers. As a grey morning

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL: DITKA CELEBRATES AFTER HIS RETURN TO SOLDIER FIELD

Packers keep the pretenders at bay

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE game they call the Battle of the Bays had an extra edge on Sunday. It is always a clash of opposites, a match-up between the traditional also-rans from the balmy south and the aristocrats from the frozen north. This time, though, many observers thought an upset might be on the cards.

After all, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers had won their first five games and were showing every sign of taking the National Football Conference (NFC) Central division by storm. The Green Bay Packers, the defending Super Bowl champions, who have been badly hit by injuries, had got off to a shaky start in the same division. Their invincibility at Lambeau Field, a byword for impermeable hostility to opposing teams, was on the line.

Ultimately, though, the Packers' home advantage was decisive again. They secured their 22nd consecutive victory in Green Bay, the third-longest streak of its type in the history of the National Football League (NFL), with a 21-16 win over the Buccaneers.

"They're a good football team," Brett Favre, the Packers' quarterback, said. "They are at the point we were at a couple of years ago and I can see them doing good things in the future. I'm surprised we jumped out of that 21-3 lead in the first half."

Favre, who has made an inconsistent start, matching that of his team, in the Packers' first six games, had a fine game, completing 21 of his 31 passes for 191 yards and

throwing two touchdown passes to Antonio Freeman.

"We made a few too many mistakes and gave Tampa Bay too many opportunities," the Packers' coach, Mike Holmgren, said, "but we're happy with the win."

Championships are not won in September, and they are not won in October. This was a big game for us, but a lot of things will happen between now and the next time we meet in Tampa on December 7. We have got to keep improving and start playing consistent ball again."

Perhaps the most dramatic win of the weekend came in Chicago, where the New Orleans Saints' new coach, Mike Ditka, made a triumphant return to Soldier Field against the team he coached to so much success, with the Refrigerator and the rest, in the 1980s.

Ditka, never the most retiring of coaches, prowled the touchlines constantly as the Saints, who have now won two of their first six games, edged to a 20-17 victory over the Chicago Bears, who have yet to record a win of their own.

"I went nuts. I was an an-

cient basket case out there," Ditka said. "I'm sure every camera in the world was on me, but I don't care any more. I don't care."

The win was sealed by Heath Shuler's 69-yard touch-

down pass to Randal Hill with just over five minutes of the fourth quarter remaining. "It is worth all the trouble," Ditka, who had taken a four-year break from the team America loves to hate.

The Giants won a match

dominated by Dallas 20-17, much to the chagrin of the Cowboys' coach, Barry Switzer. "We didn't score touch-

downs," he said, "and we made enough mistakes to beat ourselves."

"I went nuts. I was an an-

cient basket case out there," Ditka said. "I'm sure every camera in the world was on me, but I don't care any more. I don't care."

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dominated by Dallas 20-17, much to the chagrin of the Cowboys' coach, Barry Switzer. "We didn't score touch-

downs," he said, "and we made enough mistakes to beat ourselves."



Doug Evans, top, and Wayne Simmons celebrate after sealing victory for the Packers

said. "I'm going to do it until I die."

The New York Jets continued their modest revival under Bill Parcells when they beat the Indianapolis Colts in the RCA Dome, but they were overshadowed by their neighbours, the New York Giants, who had lost eight of their past ten games against the Dallas Cowboys but this time turned the tables on the team America loves to hate.

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NFL DETAILS

Western division				
Denver	5	0	158	72
Kansas City	4	2	152	110
San Diego	3	3	157	134
Seattle	2	3	151	144
Oakland	0	0	0	0
National Conference				
Eastern division				
W	L	PF	PA	
Dallas	3	2	154	76
Washington	3	2	150	75
Philadelphia	2	3	149	79
Azores	1	4	148	70
Central division				
Tampa Bay	5	1	131	87
Pittsburgh	4	2	131	86
Baltimore	3	2	121	136
Champlain	1	4	121	134
Tennessee	0	4	84	120
Not including last night's match: Denver v New England				
Western division				
New England	4	0	157	72
NY Jets	2	4	157	105
Buffalo	3	2	148	129
Miami	3	2	148	121
Philadelphia	0	5	147	141
Central division				
Chicago	0	5	125	175
American Conference				
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FOOTBALL 44
Lloyd steps out of his league for Wales

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7 1997

Briton climbs to world No 4

Rusedski gets ready for hardest task

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IN THE aftermath of his triumph in Basle on Sunday, Greg Rusedski's delight in advancing to No 4 in the world rankings was tempered by the knowledge that an early exit in Vienna this week would negate those gains.

"When I started the year, my goal was to be No 20, then 15, then 10 and finally make the top five," he said. "Now that I have achieved it, my next goal is to try and stay there. That's the hardest part." Harder, indeed, than is evident to the casual observer, for the complicated rankings mechanism will make huge demands of the Briton this week.

Rusedski knows that the 171 computer points that he amassed from winning in Beijing 12 months ago — his only tournament victory of 1996 — are about to be wiped from the slate. They will be replaced by the points he accrues in Vienna, where he must reach the semi-finals simply to protect his position.

Tim Henman, left toiling by

Rusedski of late, experienced this predicament last week. Despite reaching the semi-finals in Basle, his world ranking dropped by one place to No 21. Henman had reached the semi-final in Lyons 12 months earlier. On the rolling computer rankings system, he was obliged to forfeit those points.

A difficult first-round pairing with Andrei Medvedev in Vienna further clutters Rusedski's progress, yet the British No 1 has become accustomed to clearing barriers in his path. The higher they are, the better he seems to jump them.

"I have sustained this level for a few weeks now," he said. "Also, I am at my best indoors, so the European indoor season could not have come at a better time."

In addition to protecting his ranking, Rusedski, born in the \$3.3 million (about £2 million) ATP Tour world championship in Hannover next month. The round-robin tour-

ment is confined to the eight highest-ranked players; no Briton has previously graced the event formerly known as The Masters. That Rusedski, 24, is favoured to make the cut underlines just how emphatic his progress has been.

The most potent weapon in tennis is a powerful service.

Rusedski's has no equal.

He boasts the fastest electronically-timed delivery on record, but that alone will not sustain him at this level.

Earlier this year, his technique improved immeasurably under the tutelage of Brian Teacher, so Rusedski's recent dismissal of the California-based coach came like an unexpected thunder-clap.

Rusedski's appointment of

Tony Pickard, formerly coach to Stefan Edberg, raised eyebrows even further, yet the new alliance has increased the player's potency. Rusedski argues that Teacher's strengths lie in the technical side.

Pickard, 63, is more of a schemer, a strategist, a tactical plotter of the downfall of Rusedski's opponents.

Rusedski clearly values this commodity. As much was evident two weeks ago, before Pickard's appointment was made public.

After beating Yevgeny Kafelnikov in Munich, Rusedski arrived for the obligatory press conference wearing an expression of uncharacteristic smugness. Pickard had been strategising strategy down the telephone and Rusedski was impressed. It enabled him to reverse a drubbing from Kafelnikov on their only previous encounter.

Rusedski's bank balance has advanced almost as dramatically as his surge into the top flight. The lion's share of his seasonal earnings of \$1,258,473 (about £86,545) has been gained over the past eight weeks, when he has prevailed in 22 of his 27 matches. He has reached the quarter-finals in his past six tournaments, the semi-finals in his past four. No British player has posted such gains since rankings were introduced 25 years ago — although Fred Perry and Bunny Austin were allotted the first two places on a pre-war, unofficial rankings chart.

For all that, Rusedski recognises that the real challenge starts in Vienna. The absence of Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Patrick Rafter makes him the highest-ranked player engaged in Europe this week. His is therefore the most-prized scalp. Defending it offers yet another new challenge to Briton's No 1.

RISE AND RISE OF RUSEDSKI

Oct 96	Feb 97	June	July/Aug	Aug/Sept	Sept	Oct
Won in Beijing	Reached	Won in Nottingham	Reached	Wimbledon	Reached	Won in Basle
In Zagreb and San Jose	quarter-finals	quarter-finals	quarter-finals	Wimbledon	semi-final	Bournemouth
May/July Out of action with wrist injury						

WORLD RANKING

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Harlequins' overseas ranks swollen by Brooke's arrival

David Hands on

the imports

benefiting from

late moves to

English club rugby

time." Curiously, the polyglot community at Harlequins includes players from France, Italy, Ireland, Wales and the United States, internationals

— even one or two from England — but, curiously, no New Zealanders.

Since the Stoop has been a

home for New Zealanders for

20 years and more, the most notable of them being Andy Haden, the arrival of Brooke, probably next August, will

revive a long-standing link.

"He has done things that no

other player can do," John Hart the New Zealand coach said, including a dropped goal against England in the 1995 World Cup semi-final that strained convention for No 8 forwards.

"We will achieve playing

benefits from having him, but

also other spin-offs," Andy Keast, the Harlequins director of rugby, said. "These

marvellous, long-serving Test

players can provide valuable

guidance and leadership be-

low the captaincy level for the

less experienced players, and

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New Zealand community in

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Brooke would certainly be

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Brooke: emotional

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